

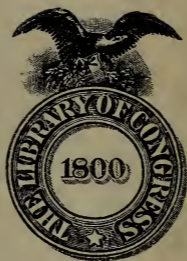
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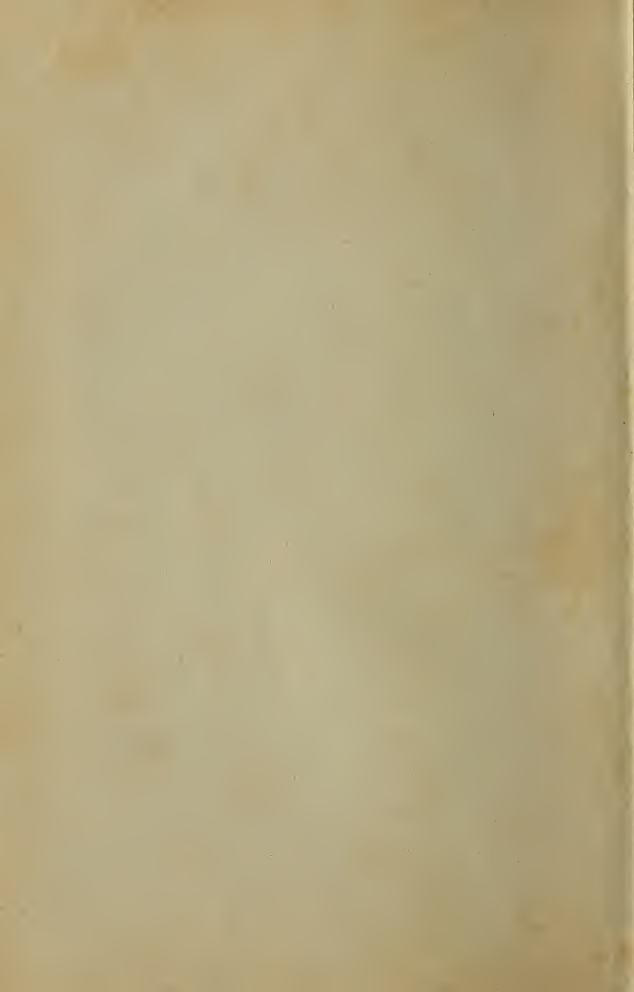
Daily Devotions
for Children.

“None can ever ask too much.”

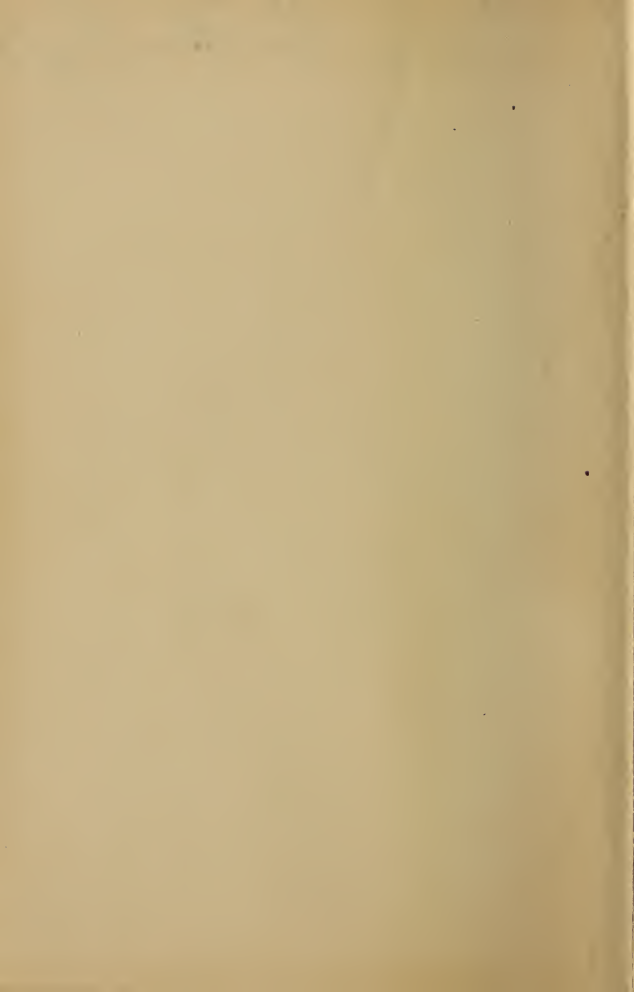


Class BV 4870

Book . H45



Viola Walden Meyer



COMING TO THE KING.

A BOOK OF

Daily Devotions for Children.

BY

GRACE WEBSTER HINSDALE

*"Thou art coming to a King,
Large petitions with thee bring ;
For his grace and power are such,
None can ever ask too much."*

NEW YORK:
ANSON D. F. RANDOLPH & CO.,
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EDWARD O. JENKINS,
Printer & Stereotyper,
No. 20 NORTH WILLIAM ST.

DEAR CHILDREN—*Is it not a precious privilege to be allowed to kneel before the throne of the great King, and to ask for all that we need? Let us bring to him our praise and prayers with grateful hearts, knowing that he is our gracious and loving Father, through Jesus Christ our Saviour.*

G. W. H.

I have written these simple Prayers, hoping that they may be of some service in the morning and evening devotions of children. I may be mistaken in thinking that such a book will be welcomed. But my own children kneel by my side, and while I am waiting for them to express their own petitions, they look up into my face and ask, "Mother, what shall I say?" Do not many others often depend upon some one to tell them what to pray for? Certainly no one can tell a child as much of our heavenly Father's love as the parents, and they can best teach it how to offer its worship and desires to God. It is my humble desire that this little book may be approved by Christian parents, and that God will graciously bless it in connection with their labors. I have endeavored by the poetical selections and Scripture passages for each day, to increase the attraction and value of the book; and I shall be glad if it proves to be a help to the children to whom it is offered.

G. W. H.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.,
May, 1865.

COMING TO THE KING.

FIRST DAY.

KNEEL, my child, for God is here!
Bend in love, but not in fear;
Kneel before him now in prayer;
Thank him for his constant care;
Praise him for his bounties shed
Every moment on thy head;
Ask for light to know his will,
Ask for love, thy heart to fill;
Ask for faith to bear thee on
Through the might of Christ, his son;
Ask his Spirit still to guide thee
Through the ills that may betide thee;
Ask for peace, to lull to rest
Every tumult of thy breast;
Ask in awe, but not in fear;
Kneel, my child, for God is here!

ANON.

O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee. Ps. lxiii. 1.

Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever. Ps. cxlv. 2.

'The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. Ps. cxlv. 18.

They that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing. Ps. xxxiv. 10.

Thou shalt call me, My father ; and shalt not turn away from me. Jer. iii. 19.

Morning.

OUR Father which art in heaven ; Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil : For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. Matt. vi. 9-13.

Evening.

ALMIGHTY GOD, thou art my creator ; my body, so wonderfully made, is the work of thy hand, and my soul, which

shall never die, came from thee. I belong to thee, my heavenly Father. My spirit must go back to thee when my poor body returns to dust. Oh let me never forget that I must give an account to thee of my life in this world ; of all my thoughts and words and acts !

I thank thee, O God, for the multitude of thy mercies to me here. But, above all other things, I long to have my name written in heaven, in the book of life.

O Lord, thou dost know me by my name ; I am not too young for thy gracious notice. Thou hast known my coming in, and my going out this day, and every moment of my life has been spent in thy sight. I pray thee to forgive my many sins, and to give me grace to live to thy praise.

O Lord, may Jesus be my Saviour, and may my prayer be accepted for his sake. Amen.

SECOND DAY.

I^N the green fields of Palestine,
By its fountains and its rills,
And by the sacred Jordan's stream,
And o'er the vine-clad hills,

Once lived and roved the fairest child
That ever blessed the earth ;
The happiest, the holiest
That e'er had human birth.

How beautiful his childhood was !
Harmless and undefiled ;
Oh ! dear to his young mother's heart
Was this pure, sinless child !

Kindly in all his deeds and words
And gentle as the dove ;
Obedient, affectionate,
His very soul was love.

Oh ! is it not a blessed thought,
Children of human birth,
That once the Saviour was a child
And lived upon the earth ?

And this is the record that God hath given to us eternal life ; and this life is in his Son.

He that hath the Son hath life ; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us. 1 Jno. v. 11-14.

Morning.

O LORD, thou art the creator of all things ; there is no other God beside thee ; thou art the maker of heaven and earth ; thou art our Father, and hast invited us to come unto thee for those things which we need.

Be pleased to teach me how to pray, and give me right desires ; help me to understand what it is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and to bring my prayers unto thee in his precious name.

Dear Saviour, wash my soul in thy blood, and put upon me the beautiful robe of thy righteousness; may I show such a holy and obedient spirit, that thou mayest be glorified in my life, though I am but a child.

O Lord, preserve me this day from all evil; from all sickness and accident, but especially from sin; and when the sun has gone down may I rejoice to think that I am one day nearer to my sweet home in heaven. I ask it all in Jesus' name. Amen.

Evening.

DEAR heavenly Father, how good hast thou been to me to-day! I cannot count thy mercies to me! Let me not forget that all thy goodness is granted to me because Jesus the dear Saviour died to save us from the punishment we deserve. O God, I pray thee to take away all my sins, and love me, and save me for Jesus' sake.

Dear Father, if it please thee spare me

from pain and sickness ; give me health and strength I humbly ask thee. But if it is thy holy will that I should suffer, as so many others do, please to comfort and bless me with thy love, and by thy grace help me to bear my pain, and to show a sweet and patient spirit. May I never be impatient or ready to complain, but teach me always to be satisfied with thy wise care and will. In all my life, whether I am sick or well, rich or poor, give me a heart to love and worship thee. O God, be merciful to all who suffer ; to all who are sad and in distress ; may the blessed Saviour tell them by his Spirit that God is wise and good, and knows what is best for them. Thou hast made me very happy here in my home in this world, but, I pray thee, never let me forget what is promised in heaven to those who repent of their sins and love the Saviour. O Lord, hear my prayer for Jesus' sake. Amen.

THIRD DAY.

SEEING I am Jesus' lamb,
Ever glad at heart I am
O'er my Shepherd kind and good,
Who provides me daily food,
And his lamb by name doth call,
For he knows and loves us all.

Guided by his gentle staff
Where the sunny pastures laugh,
I go in and out and feed,
Lacking nothing that I need ;
When I thirst my feet he brings
To the fresh and living springs.

Must I not rejoice for this ?
He is mine and I am his ;
And when these bright days are past,
Safely in his arms at last
He will bear me home to Heaven ;
Oh what joy hath Jesus given !

LUISE H. VON HAYM.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from

above, and cometh down from the Father of lights.
Jas. i. 17.

Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.
2 Cor. ix. 15.

I am the good Shepherd, and know my sheep,
and am known of mine. Jno. x. 14.

And there shall be one fold, and one Shepherd.
Jno. x. 16.

Morning.

DEAR heavenly Father, accept my thanks
for the morning light; thou hast pre-
served me through the darkness of the night,
and I have slept in safety, because thy hand
has shielded me from every danger. Accept
my thanks that thou hast made me capable
of calling upon thee in prayer.

O Lord, let no evil thoughts enter my
heart to-day, but create within me a clean
heart, that my words and actions may be
right in thy sight. May all the pleasures I
enjoy remind me of thee, who art the giver
of all my mercies; in all my little trials and
disappointments give me confidence in thy

gentleness and pity, and receive my humble prayer for thy help. I am often impatient and unwilling to be confined to the duties given me to do. I am too easily provoked and made angry by contradiction and slight injury. Dear Jesus, give me thy meek and lowly mind ; help me to persevere in trying to imitate thee ; help me to conquer all feelings of resentment, and make me willing to bear many injuries rather than offer one to another.

O Lord, assist me in all my studies this day, and make me intelligent and thoughtful and full of love to thee. I beseech thee, hear my prayer for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Evening.

DEAR Jesus, thou dost call thyself the Good Shepherd ; I beseech thee keep me safely in thy fold. Oh, make me one of thy lambs, and let me not wander away from thy side. May I know and obey the voice of my Shepherd. Dear Saviour, guide

me safely through this world, and bring me, at last, to see thy face, and to sing thy praise in the heavenly fold above. O Lord, gather all the children of the world into thy happy flock ; may we all love thy voice, and attend to thy commands. Give to us such blessings in this life as thou shalt see are for our good ; provide for us those things which we need each day, and graciously protect us from every danger. Save us from the evils that are in this sinful world, and from the selfishness and wickedness of our own hearts. Dear Jesus, do for us all that we need, and take our hands in thine and lead us safely to our heavenly home. Amen.



FOURTH DAY.

WHY do we say "Thy kingdom come?"

Because our King is far away,
And till he comes to us again,
We wait, and watch, and pray.

Because some hearts are cold and hard,
And some are traitors to his cause,
They do not honor the great King,
They will not keep his laws.

But if we say these solemn words,
And hope to share his triumph hour,
Our hearts must be his kingdom now,
Where he alone hath power.

They must be holy, pure, and true,
Obeying Christ in every thing,
For they who own his gentle rule,
Can have no other King.

ANON.

For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. Ps. xci. 11.

Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation? Heb. i. 14.

So shall it be at the end of the world : the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just. Matt. xiii. 49.

And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom. Luke xvi. 22.

Morning.

HEAVENLY Father! please to draw me near to thee this morning; please to make me humble and sincere when I kneel before thee. To-day I would delight to remember what thy word tells us of the holy angels. Wilt thou not give them a charge concerning me, to protect me from harm, and to influence my heart by their gentle and loving presence?

There are many holy and beautiful angels around thy throne, and hast thou not said that they are sent on errands of love to us? O Lord, if thou hast indeed committed me, who am so helpless, to the sweet care and love of one of these holy beings, grant that

I may not grieve that loving friend, by wicked thoughts or acts. May I remember that by-and-by the angels shall gather out of thy kingdom all things that offend and them which do iniquity.

Oh, keep me, dear Father, from every sin, and may the angels bring me at last into thine arms for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Evening.

O GOD, my gracious and loving Father, how much I need the mercy which thou art so ready to show to those who are sorry for their sins! I have done the things I ought not to have done; I have left undone the things I ought to have done. I beseech of thee to look upon Jesus, thy dear Son, in whom thou art well pleased, as my Saviour, suffering my punishment, and offering his perfect righteousness in the place of my ingratitude and sin.

Thou art, O Lord, a great and glorious King, and I have broken thy just and holy

laws ; but I grieve most of all because I have offended such a kind and tender Father. O God, let me not go on in my evil ways, thinking that thou wilt still be patient with me, and overlook my sin ! Let thy goodness make me grateful and obedient, and grant thy forgiving mercy to my soul through Jesus, my Saviour. Amen.



FIFTH DAY.

THROUGH the day Thy love has spared us,
 Now we lay us down to rest ;
 Through the silent watches guard us,
 Let no foe our peace molest :
 Jesus thou our guardian be ;
 Sweet it is to trust in thee.

Pilgrims here on earth, and strangers,
 Dwelling in the midst of foes,
 Us and ours preserve from dangers ;
 In thine arms may we repose ;
 And, when life's short day is past,
 Rest with thee in heaven at last. ANON.

Thou, even thou, art Lord alone : thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all ; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee. Neh. ix. 6.

Glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. 1 Cor. vi. 20.

Morning.

ETERNAL and infinite God ! I worship thee as the only true and holy God ; thou art worthy of all praise and love ; thou art from everlasting, and the worlds were made by thy power ; thou gavest me my being, and to thy compassion and mercy I owe all my blessings.

O God, teach me to understand more about the life which my soul shall have after my body is laid in the grave ; prepare me to spend eternity with the happy saints and angels in heaven. May I feel the value of the few days and years I am to spend here upon the earth. Let me not forget, heavenly Father, that the young often die, and that I may be taken out of the world at any time. Lord, I pray thee to accept my thanks for the sweet hope of life and happiness in heaven. I will not be afraid of death, for the blessed Saviour will receive me into his arms when I leave earthly friends. O Lord, I beseech thee not to re-

member my many sins, but wash them all away in Jesus' blood, and save my soul for his sake. Amen.

Evening.

HEAVENLY Father! I bow at thy feet this evening to thank thee for all the gifts which fall from thy bountiful hand upon me. Oh! let me give myself to thee; may I keep nothing back.

I rejoice to know that I am not my own, but that with my body and soul I belong to the dear Saviour. May my eye look with faith to Jesus; may I trust and love him. Let my ear be opened to his voice, and may I sit with delight at Jesus' feet, hearing his word. Give my hand some work to do for him who has done so much for me, and give me a faithful spirit. Oh! may my feet follow in his holy steps, and run the way of God's commandments. May my lips speak of Jesus' love, and sing his praise. O Lord,

I would give my whole heart to him who gave himself for me.

Mercifully forgive my sins this night. Watch over me and all whom I love while we rest ; may we offer unto thee grateful hearts as we close our eyes to sleep, and may we wake to enjoy thy continued goodness. I ask it all in Jesus' name. Amen.



SIXTH DAY.

GOD of mercy, throned on high,
 Listen from thy lofty seat,
 Hear, oh hear our feeble cry,
 Guide, oh guide our wandering feet!

Young and erring travelers, we
 All our dangers do not know;
 Scarcely fear the stormy sea,
 Hardly feel the tempest blow.

Jesus, lover of the young,
 Cleanse us with thy blood divine!
 Ere the tide of sins grow strong,
 Save us, keep us, make us thine!

Let us ever hear thy voice,
 Ask thy counsel every day;
 Saints and angels will rejoice,
 If we walk in wisdom's way. ANON.

I will instruct thee, and teach thee in the way
 which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine
 eye. Ps. xxxii. 8.

Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. Ps. lxxiii. 24.

Likewise, I say unto you, There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth. Luke xv. 10.

Morning.

O LORD, every morning when I rise I would start anew on my pleasant journey to my heavenly home. Please to show me the wrong steps I have taken in the past; please to guide me to-day, and in all my life.

When my parents reprove me for wrongdoing, may I be sorry for my fault, and wilt thou make me submissive to their correction. May I never be proud or boastful or obstinate, but keep me humble and careful and obedient.

O Lord, bless me not only, but grant thy mercy to every child in all the world; send blessings to all the poor and to those who

are sick ; let the love of Jesus be known over all the earth. I offer my prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

Evening.

HELP me, O Lord, to feel that I am in thy holy presence when I kneel to pray. Help me to put away all other thoughts from my mind ; and please to bend thine ear to my prayer.

I have been permitted to enjoy the pleasures of another day, and now I come to ask thee, my Father in heaven, to watch over me while I sleep, and to wake me in the morning with a grateful and obedient heart. I am ashamed that I do so little that can please God ; be pleased to accept my simple faith, while I try to lay my sins on Jesus, the spotless Lamb of God ; help me to understand how he became a sacrifice for me, and for his sake hear my prayer. Amen.

SEVENTH DAY.

LAMB of God, I look to thee;
Thou shalt my example be;
Thou art gentle, meek, and mild;
Thou wast once a little child.

Fain I would be as thou art;
Give me thy obedient heart!
Thou art pitiful and kind;
Let me have thy loving mind.

Loving Jesus, gentle Lamb,
In thy gracious hands I am;
Make me, Saviour, what thou art!
Live thyself within my heart!

I shall then show forth thy praise;
Serve thee all my happy days;
Then the world shall always see
Christ, the Holy Child, in me.

CHARLES WESLEY.

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world! Jno. i. xxix.

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. Phil. ii. v.

Beware lest thou forget the Lord. Deut. vi. 12.

God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. 1 Cor. x. 13.

To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God. Rev. ii. 7.

Morning.

O LORD GOD, though thou art such a great and holy Being, thy word tells me that thou dost think upon me, and that thou dost love and pity me. Thou art indeed the best friend I can have; my earthly father cannot love me with such a love as thine. Thy thoughts of us are full of mercy, and thou hast spoken to us by the sweet and gentle voice of Jesus, our dear Saviour.

O Lord, help me this morning to offer a

new song of praise to thee ; and please to put within me a more obedient heart.

I would think of thee this day, dear heavenly Father ; in the midst of my pleasures may I remember thee with gratitude ; when I am tempted to sin, may I remember thy commands, and fear the Lord. I beseech of thee, O God, to hear my prayer for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Evening.

O LORD, thou hast again commanded the darkness to cover the earth, and I am come to offer unto thee my evening prayer. My days pass swiftly away in the midst of thy blessings. Oh help me to remember that if my life is spared, I shall have real and important duties to perform. May my character and manners be improved each day. Let not my wicked heart deceive me ; but help me to cultivate a noble and pure spirit, that I may be prepared to do good in the world.

To-night I pray for the forgiveness of all my sins ; give me, I pray thee, a holy desire to overcome every wrong disposition, and wash me thoroughly from every stain of sin.

Into thy merciful hands I commit myself and my dear friends this night ; please to grant us thy mercy, for Jesus' sake. Amen.



EIGHTH DAY.

THE Spirit, like a peaceful dove,
 Flies from the realms of noise and strife:
 Why should we vex and grieve his love,
 Who seals our souls to heavenly life!

Tender and kind be all our thoughts;
 Through all our lives let mercy run:
 So God forgives our numerous faults,
 For the dear sake of Christ, his Son.

WATTS.

And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance
 fell. Gen. iv. 5.

A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance.
 Prov. xv. 13.

Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep
 the door of my lips. Ps. cxli. 3.

My lips shall not speak wickedness, nor my
 tongue utter deceit. Job xxvii. 4.

I beseech thee, show me thy glory. Ex.
 xxxiii. 18.

Morning.

DEAR Jesus! I do not wonder that the little children ran with gladness into thine arms when thou wast on the earth. Thy smile was sweet to see, and thy voice was gentle and kind.

Oh may there be upon my face the signs of a loving and Christ-like spirit. Open thou my lips, that all my words may be such as thou wouldst have me speak. Let no little word of mine stir up strife or cause unhappiness among my companions. But may I always wear a pleasant smile, and may my voice show a happy heart to all around me. Bless me this day, O God, I pray thee, and hear my prayer for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Evening.

DEAR heavenly Father, thou hast mercifully spared me through another day. I thank thee for thy goodness. To-night

I ask thy forgiveness for the many things which I have done displeasing to thee.

I know that I ought to love thee perfectly. Oh show me something of thy glory, that I may have in my heart a real spirit of worship and love to thee. May the Holy Spirit teach me to know God, and may he so change my wicked heart that I may love that which is right.

O Lord, remember all my dear friends to-night, and let thy mercy protect us for Jesus' sake. Amen.



NINTH DAY.

FATHER in heaven, look down, I pray,
And guide my steps throughout the day ;
Let not my thoughts to sin incline,
But fill me with thy grace divine.

Let all my words and actions be
Restrained and governed, Lord, by thee ;
Bless my dear friends whom thou hast given
To teach my soul the way to heaven.

Bless me, dear Lord, again I pray ;
Let nothing tempt me from the way
Which leads at last, through Jesus' love,
To that sweet home of joy above.

G. W. H.

The Lord your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn away his face from you, if ve return unto him. 2 Chron. xxx. 9.

Thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness. Neh. ix. 17.

Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. Ps. ciii. 13.

And David said unto the Lord, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O Lord, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly. 2 Sam. xxiv. 10.

Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart • for consider how great things he hath done for you. 1 Sam. xii. 24.

The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. 1 John i. 7.

Morning.

DEAR Jesus, my precious Saviour, I often wish that I could see thee; I think it would be easier to be good and obedient, if I could always see thee by my side. I know that thou art up in heaven, and that thou sendest to me the good things I receive! Thou hast written to me in thy holy word; and the good and holy men who followed thee when thou wast upon the

earth, have told us what they heard thee say, and saw thee do. O Lord, open my eyes of faith, to see thee and know thee ; may I be sure of thy love to me, and believe in thee in my heart, though I cannot see thee. Help me to-day to act just as if I saw thee walking near me and looking upon me. Amen.

Evening.

O GOD, I have a sinful nature ; there are proud and foolish thoughts, and selfish wishes in my heart ; and thou canst see them all. Thine eye has watched me all through this day ; and thine ear has heard all that I have said.

I am sorry for all my sins, and for the mistakes I have made in my poor attempts to do right. O Lord, do not keep the record of my wicked acts upon thy book, I pray thee ; but before I fall asleep, let it all be blotted out for the dear Saviour's sake.

Bless my brothers and sisters and our

dear father and mother to-night ; please to hear their many prayers for us and make us what they wish us to be. May we never grieve their hearts by ungrateful and wicked conduct. In our childhood, dear heavenly Father, may we by thy grace acquire holy and useful habits, that our life here in this world may be to thy glory, and a comfort to our parents.

Lord, cleanse my heart from all its sins in the precious blood of Christ, and accept my prayer for His sake. Amen.

4



TENTH DAY.

GREAT God, and wilt thou condescend
To be my Father and my Friend?
I, a poor child, and thou so high,
The Lord of earth, and air, and sky!

Art thou my Father? Let me be
A meek, obedient child to thee;
And try in word, and deed, and thought,
To serve and please thee as I ought.

Art thou my Father? I'll depend
Upon the care of such a Friend;
And only wish to do, and be,
Whatever seemeth good to thee.

Art thou my Father? Then at last,
When all my days on earth are passed,
Send down and take me in thy love,
To be thy better child above.

JANE TAYLOR.

As the Father hath loved me, so have I love
you. Jno. xv. 9.

If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. Rom. viii. 9.

The Lord knoweth them that are his. 2 Tim. ii. 19.

What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me? Ps. cxvi. 12.

I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. Ps. civ. 33.

Cease to do evil. Is. i. 16.

Learn to do well. Is. i. 17.

That which I see not, teach thou me; if I have done iniquity, I will do no more. Job xxxiv. 32.

Morning.

DEAR heavenly Father, I bow down to offer unto thee my worship. Thou hast given to me my life; and all my privileges and enjoyments are the gifts of thy love.

To-day, I pray thee help me to improve in good behavior; keep me from repeating the wrong acts I have done in the past;

keep my tongue from speaking again the words which have displeased thee. O God, fill my heart with love to thee, and give me a true desire to be thy dear child. Please to grant thy mercy to all my friends, and bless the whole world for Jesus' sake Amen:

Evening.

THE sun has gone down, and the little birds have folded their wings, and hushed their happy songs. I kneel before thee again, dear Father in heaven, to thank thee for all thy goodness and to ask thee still to keep me in thy loving care.

How tenderly have I been cared for to-day by all my dear friends! I can never repay my father and my mother for all their love; O God, I beseech thee to make me careful to do the things they bid me. Oh hear their many prayers for me, that I may grow up to live a holy and happy life. I ask it for the dear Redeemer's sake. Amen.

ELEVENTH DAY.

TELL, if thou canst, how yonder flower
To life and light has burst its way ;
Through ten long months beneath the ground
Its snowy petals torpid lay.

Then I will teach thee how a child
From death's long slumber can awake,
And, to eternal life renewed,
His robe of heavenly beauty take.

While from the dust, each circling year,
The snow-drop lifts its humble head,
Say, shall I doubt God's equal power,
To call me from my lowly bed ?

ANON.

And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Dan. xii. 2.

Marvel not at this : for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth ; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life ; and they that

have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. Jno. v. 28, 29.

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. Acts xvi. 31.

Morning.

I COME into thy presence this morning, my heavenly Father, to thank thee for the care which has shielded me through the hours of another night. How wonderful and kind is the power that created and preserves my body! I laid down to sleep and soon forgot all that was around me; but God has opened my eyes again, and made my limbs to move obedient to my will. O Lord, help me to remember that by-and-by my body must sleep in the grave, till the voice of Jesus shall wake me to enjoy a better life. How sweet it is to know that thou, O God, dost care for every one of us; that thou wilt some time call us out of the world to be with thee in heaven!

Make me obedient to thee, my heavenly Father, and to my earthly parents, and after this life receive my soul, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Evening.

DEAR Jesus! thou art the Almighty Son of God, yet thou didst come down to our world and clothe thyself with flesh and blood; thou didst suffer wicked men to nail thy blessed body to the cross; thou didst permit them to pierce thy side, and to put a crown of thorns upon thy head. Oh! what love it was in thee to die for such poor sinners as we are! And yet, dear Jesus, my heart is so hard that it does not love thee as it ought; it is so wicked that it does not hate its sins! I pray thee to take away this hard and stony heart and give me a heart full of gratitude and love to thee. To-day I have tried to please thee; I know that what I have done has been only a poor return for thy love to me; but I pray thee

to look with kindness upon me, and to accept my desire to please thee. Bless me while I rest in my bed ; let me awake in the morning as cheerful as the little birds, who sing thy praise.

Dear Father in heaven, hear my prayer for Jesus' sake. Amen.



TWELFTH DAY.

WE are soldiers doing battle,
 Day by day, and hour by hour,
 Each one with his own temptations
 Striving in the Spirit's power ;

Still that Spirit stronger groweth
 In the hearts that hold it fast ;
 He will help us, teach us, crown us,
 More than conquerors at the last.

ANON.

And God said, Ask what I shall give thee. I
 Kings iii. 5.

Your Father knoweth what things ye have need
 of before ye ask him. Matt. vi. 8.

But my God shall supply all your need accord-
 ing to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Phil.
 iv. 19.

Let me hear thy voice. Cant. ii. 14.

The way of the righteous is made plain. Prov.
 xv. 19.

Morning.

DEAR heavenly Father, I know that I am graciously permitted to ask of thee those things which thou hast promised. Hast thou not said that thou wilt give wisdom to those who ask it of thee? I pray thee to teach me thy ways and show me the path of life. Hast thou not promised to give strength to those who wish to be good soldiers of the Lord Jesus Christ? I pray thee that love to our glorious leader, may make me bold and courageous in fighting against every sin.

O God, thou hast offered to us many precious gifts, but especially do I beg of thee the Holy Spirit to dwell in my soul. Grant unto me these mercies for my dear Redeemer's sake. Amen.

Evening.

O GOD, I thank thee that the sweet and holy religion which Jesus, the blessed

Saviour, teaches, is so simple and plain that I can understand so much of its holy truth. I rejoice, O God, that though thou art so infinite and holy, I need not be afraid to kneel and speak to thee. How sweet the thought of thy love to us is! We are happy and safe in thy tender care. O Lord, to-night have mercy upon me and all whom I love; bless the poor, and the sick, and all for whom we ought to pray. Oh let the happy time soon come when the whole world shall hear of Jesus, and love his dear name. Will God accept my worship and petitions for the dear Redeemer's sake. Amen.



THIRTEENTH DAY.

WE could not know that God is love,
If left to nature's book alone ;
The earth and sky could never prove
That mercy sits upon the throne.

We could not read the Saviour's name
Upon the beams of morning light ;
The star which shone when Jesus came
Is faded from the vault of night.

The Bible tells us how he died,
That we might have eternal bliss ;
Oh ! see his bleeding hands and side !
Was ever love so great as this ?

He wrought a robe for us to wear
Before Jehovah's glorious throne :
Canst thou in nature tell me where
This wondrous love of God is shown ?

G. W. H.

And that from a child thou hast known the
holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise

unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 2 Tim. iii. 15.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Ps. cxix. 105.

The soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. 1 Sam. xviii. 1.

Morning.

O GOD, thou hast again divided the light from the darkness, and given us another bright and cheerful day; please to bless me as I bring to thee my morning prayer and offering of praise.

Bless me as I read thy Holy word; may it seem to me as the voice of God speaking to me. O Lord, let the Holy Bible be like a heavenly guide very near to me, to keep me in the way which leads to eternal life. Accept my thanks that I have been taught to read, so that I can open the holy book, and find the precious promises and the sweet

words of Jesus. Oh that it might bring the tears to my eyes, when I read how my dear Saviour was crucified for me ; how his head and hands and side were pierced, that his precious blood might flow to wash away my sins ! Oh help me to remember his love to-day, that I may strive to please him. Heavenly Father, hear my prayer, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Evening.

O LORD, thy kind care has brought me to the close of another day ; make me serious and solemn while I remember that one more day of my life is gone. Will God for Jesus' sake forgive every sin I have committed since I rose this morning, and may all the sins of my life be washed away in the dear Redeemer's blood.

I have enjoyed to-day the care and love of tender friends. How shall I thank thee enough, dear heavenly Father, for those who love me so well and do so much for my good

and happiness. I thank thee too for the love of my young companions ; may I be wise and careful in the selection of friends ; may I choose those who fear and love God, and may we help each other to grow daily more and more like the holy Jesus. O God, may my friends here upon the earth be not only sweet and dear to me, but also true and faithful, that, in our heavenly home we may meet to love each other, and to enjoy a happy eternity. I ask it all for Jesus' sake
Amen.



FOURTEENTH DAY.

THERE is a green hill far away,
Without a city wall,
Where the dear Lord was crucified,
Who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell
What pains he had to bear,
But we believe it was for us
He hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiven,
He died to make us good ;
That we might go at last to Heaven,
Saved by his precious blood.

C. F. H.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world ; but that the world through him might be saved. Jno. iii. 16, 17.

If ye love me, keep my commandments. Jno. xiv. 15.

Morning.

O GOD, I know that closing my eyes, and kneeling upon my knees, and repeating words which I do not think about, is not praying unto thee. I know that if my heart does not desire the things I ask, that thou wilt not hear me ; and if I do not offer my prayer in the dear Redeemer's name, thou wilt not receive it. Please to teach me how to pray unto thee, for without thy favor and blessing I shall be poorer than the poorest being upon the earth.

O God, I beg of thee those things which I need for my body and my soul. I bow at thy feet and ask thee to do for me more and better than I can ask or think, for my blessed Saviour's sake. Amen.

Evening.

DEAR Jesus, my precious Saviour, thou hast given thyself for me and suffered

the shameful death of the cross that I might be redeemed from all my sins, and be purified by the Holy Spirit.

I know, dear Jesus, that God, the holy Father, is ready and willing to hear thy prayer for me, and to receive me to be his child. Oh help me to do good works ; may I strive to be holy, and wilt thou teach me to trust in thy merits for the mercy of God to my soul !

Dear Lord, forgive all my sinful thoughts and actions this day, and though I am so unworthy, continue thy goodness to me. Amen.



FIFTEENTH DAY.

THY home is with the humble, Lord!
 The simplest are the best;
 Thy lodging is in child-like hearts;
 Thou makest there thy rest.

Dear Comforter! Eternal Love!
 If thou wilt stay with me,
 Of lowly thoughts and simple ways
 I'll build a house for thee.

Who made this beating heart of mine
 But thou, my heavenly Guest?
 Let no one have it, then, but thee,
 And let it be thy rest!

ANON

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith.
 Eph. iii. 17.

This people draweth nigh unto me with their
 mouth, and honoreth me with their lips; but
 their heart is far from me. Matt. xv. 8.

And let him that is athirst come. And whoso

ever will, let him take the water of life freely.
Rev. xxii. 17.

Thou wilt show me the path of life : in thy presence is fullness of joy ; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore. Ps. xvi. 11.

Morning.

MOST gracious and infinite Father ! while I am kneeling in thy holy presence, may I feel that I am indeed speaking to God ; may I pray with my heart as well as with my lips. Thou art not a God afar off, but thou art near, and canst see me and hear me as easily as my dear mother can, when I kneel by her side.

Lord, remember me to-day, and put the Holy Spirit into my heart, that I may not forget thee. Bless my parents, my brothers and sisters, and every one dear to me. Bless the children I see around me, who do not fear God and do not love him.

O Lord Jesus, the Lamb of God, who

taketh away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us all, and save our souls. Amen.

Evening.

WITH joy, dear Jesus, I come to thee tonight, to praise and thank thee for the happiness and pleasure thou hast given me this day. I have enjoyed thy goodness in every hour, and I desire to confess that there is nothing in me to merit such kindness from thee, the great and righteous God.

But, O Lord, though thou shouldst bestow upon me an infinite number of gifts and mercies, I should still be poor and needy without thy smile and love in my heart. And I am not satisfied without feeling thy love in my soul, for thy love seems to me to be the living water which thou hast offered to us to drink. Oh dear Father in heaven, though I am so young my heart is not contented with only the good things which thou hast given me to enjoy ; thy blessed Spirit

has taught me to thirst for the sweet river of thy pleasures. Grant unto me, I pray thee, thy love and presence in my heart, to be my chief happiness. I pray, O Lord, for the thousands of poor and ignorant people who know nothing better than the pleasures of the body; who never think of heaven, and know not the way to its joys. Oh, send down thy blessing upon all the world to-night. I ask it all for Jesus' sake. Amen.



SIXTEENTH DAY.

CHILD of Mary, thou dost know,
What of danger, joy, or woe,
Shall to-day my portion be,
Let me meet it all in thee.

Thou wast meek and undefiled,
Make me holy too, and mild ;
Thou didst foil the tempter's power,
Help me in temptation's hour.

Thou didst love thy mother here,
Make me gentle, kind, and dear ;
Thou wast subject to her word,
Teach me to obey, O Lord !

Fretful feelings, passion, pride,
Never did with thee abide :
Make me watch myself to-day,
That they lead me not astray.

C. F. H.

I laid me down and slept ; I awaked ; for the
Lord sustained me. Ps. iii. 5.

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our
righteousnesses are as filthy rags. Is. lxiv. 6.

Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. Ps. li. 2.

He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. Rev. iii. 5.

Morning.

I THANK thee, O God, that I am again permitted to rise from my bed, and prepare myself for the pleasant duties and enjoyments of a new day. While I am dressing I would remember the holy word which says, "Let thy garments be always white." Oh that to-day no spot of sin might be found upon my soul. Lord, keep my conscience pure, and my heart undefiled; let not hypocrisy, nor envy, nor selfishness, nor vanity, nor any other sin, pollute my soul. Let not the seeds and roots of sin in me bear fruit to offend thee, and destroy my own happiness. O God, do not let me set

a wicked and dangerous example to my playmates and friends, but purify and bless, and save me. Wash my soul in Jesus' blood, and keep it white by thy grace. May I deny myself every evil indulgence, and do thou, dear Saviour, make me watchful against every temptation. O Lord, hear my prayer for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Evening.

DEAR Jesus, draw me close to thy side to-night, and make me feel that thou art listening to my prayer. Thou art my best and kindest friend; when I hear thy name my heart is full of praise and joy. O Lord, my blessed Saviour, wilt thou not take care of me all the years of my life? Wilt thou not deliver me from every danger by thy strong arm? I trust in thee to save me from all that can harm me; but above all, from sin. I am too weak and ignorant to take care of myself; I pray thee to do

all things for me, and at last to lead me into the heavenly home. Dear Jesus, how holy and happy are the blessed spirits who live with thee! We, who are in this world, are like children far away from our Father's house; please to take me into thy care, and keep me from wandering out of the path that leads to thee. Have mercy upon the children who live in ignorance, and know nothing of thy love. Bless the missionaries who preach the gospel to the heathen. O Lord, have mercy upon me, and upon all for whom I should pray. I ask it all for Jesus' sake. Amen.



SEVENTEENTH DAY.

THE Saviour bids us watch and pray,
Through life's brief fleeting hour,
And gives the Spirit's quickening ray
To those who seek its power.

The Saviour bids us watch and pray,
For soon the hour will come,
That calls us from the earth away,
To our eternal home.

O Saviour, we would watch and pray,
And hear thy sacred voice;
And walk as thou hast marked the way,
To heaven's eternal joys.

HASTINGS

Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 1 Cor. ii. 9.

If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord,

honorable; and shalt honor him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord. Is. lviii. 13, 14.

Morning.

DEAR Jesus, wilt thou not teach me when I read thy Holy Bible to take the sweet words into my heart. Thou canst make me feel that the precious promises are for me though I am so young. Hast thou not said that when we call upon thee thou wilt hear? Please to hear me this morning, and help me to understand thy holy book; may I read in it with reverence and gratitude.

When I go to the house of God upon the Sabbath, may the light of thy truth shine upon my mind and heart; may the Holy Spirit give to me my portion of the heavenly bread. May the Sabbath be the sweetest day of all the week to me; let me never be guilty of breaking thy command to keep it holy.

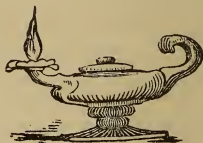
O Lord, bless me in the Sabbath-school ; help me to study the lessons, and to remember my teacher's instructions. Prepare me to sing thy praise in heaven with all who love thee there. I ask it for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Evening.

DEAR heavenly Father! all my life has been happy under thy protecting wing ; thou hast shielded me from the dangers of another day and given me many blessings to enjoy. I thank thee for my home, my friends, and for my daily bread. Thou hast given these gifts of thy mercy to me, because the blessed Saviour lived and died to obtain thy compassion and pity for us who are so unworthy of thy goodness. But, dear Lord, thy love to my soul is greater than these mercies to my poor body ; I will praise thee as long as I live for the gift of thy dear Son, I will bless thee when I lie down, and when I rise up, because he

came into the world to save lost sinners. With a penitent heart I ask thy forgiveness of all my sins.

O God, spare my life through the night, I pray thee ; bless my dear parents and all my friends, and all for whom I ought to pray, for Jesus' sake. Amen.



EIGHTEENTH DAY.

HAST thou invited me to come,
 Dear Saviour, to thy loving breast ?
 Within thy heart can there be room,
 For such a young and sinful guest ?

Gladly I seek thy smiling face ;
 Thy invitation I accept ;
 Led by the kindness of thy grace
 Let me in paths of life be kept. G. W. H.

But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me ; for of such is the kingdom of heaven. Matt. xix. 14.

He shall feed his flock like a Shepherd ; he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom. Is. xl. 11.

Morning.

GREAT God, I look up to thee, and humbly ask thee to bend thine ear to my prayer, and to permit me to come near to thee through Jesus Christ, my Saviour.

Before I open thy word to read its sacred truths I would ask for the presence and help of the Holy Spirit. I know that I may search the Scriptures every day, and receive no good to my soul, unless the Spirit makes me to see the beauty of Jesus as his glory shines on every page. And I know that in my blindness and ignorance I shall never see how much I need a Saviour, if the Holy Spirit does not show to me my sins and my danger of eternal punishment. I love the Bible, because it unfolds to me the wonderful love of the dear Redeemer! O God, I beseech of thee, let the Holy Spirit enter into my heart and make it a pure and holy place for the blessed Jesus to dwell in; may thy word show me the way in which I should go, and may the influence of the Spirit make me to walk in it.

O Lord, strengthen my memory, that I may keep this precious word in my heart, that I may not sin against thee. I ask it all for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Evening.

ALMIGHTY God, thy goodness has followed me through the hours of another day ; the same tenderness and pity which feeds the little birds has provided for all my wants. I lift my heart to thee to thank thee for such constant love and care. Thou art never weary of doing us good, though we grow so soon tired of keeping thy commandments.

Thou art kind and good to all ; thou art full of love. O Lord, if I have shown a selfish or ungenerous spirit to-day, I pray thee to forgive it ; if I have been stubborn or disobedient ; if I have forgotten the holy example of Jesus, when he was a child subject to his parents ; I pray to be forgiven for his sake. Take me into thine arms to-night, dear Father in heaven, and bless me. Oh, put the Holy Spirit into my heart ; make me more and more like Jesus ! O God, hear my prayer for the dear Redeemer's sake. Amen.

NINETEENTH DAY.

AS with gladness men of old
Did the guiding-star behold ;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright ;
So, most gracious God, may we
Evermore be led by thee.

As with joyful steps they sped
To that lowly manger-bed ;
There to bend the knee before
Him whom heaven and earth adore ;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek thy mercy-seat.

Holy Jesus! every day
Keep us in the narrow way ;
And, when earthly things are past
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds thy glory hide.

W. C. DIX.

And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts,

in that day when I make up my jewels. Mal. iii.
17.

Ye are bought with a price. 1 Cor. vii. 23.

For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee. Is. xli. 13.

Morning.

O LORD, may I believe that I am one of thy jewels? Is my soul like a precious gem in thy sight? I would praise thee for thy love! Help me to remember the price which Jesus paid that my soul might belong to him! O God, I rejoice to know that thou wilt take care of me and keep me by thy power, and at last set me as a shining gem in Jesus' crown.

This day may I often think of what the dear Saviour has done for me; help me to tell my playmates and friends how sweet it is to feel the love of Jesus in my heart; may they learn from me to love him too, and to do the things which please him. Dear heav-

enly Father, make me more lovely and holy that I may shine like one of thy jewels here in this world. I ask it all for my Saviour's sake. Amen.

Evening.

DEAR Father in heaven, I kneel before thy glorious throne to-night to receive thy blessing. Thou hast seen my efforts to-day to please thee ; thou hast helped me to resist some of my temptations. I thank thee that I am not left with only my own strength and wishes to do right, for I could not take a step in the right way if thou shouldst leave me to myself. Dear Jesus, hold my hand, I pray, and be my gracious guide and helper. Pardon all my sins through the past day, and put thy merciful arms around me to-night. O God, hear me for my Saviour's sake. Amen.

WENTIETH DAY.

SWELL the anthem, raise the song:
 Praises to our God belong;
 Saints and angels! join to sing
 Praises to the heavenly king.
 Blessings from his liberal hand
 Flow around this happy land:
 Kept by him, no foes annoy;
 Peace and freedom we enjoy.

Here beneath a virtuous sway,
 May we cheerfully obey;
 Never feel oppression's rod,
 Ever own and worship God.
 Hark! the voice of nature sings
 Praises to the King of kings;
 Let us join the choral song,
 And the grateful notes prolong.

ANON.

The fear of man bringeth a snare. Prov. xxix.

25.

The fear of the Lord is to hate evil. Prov.
 viii. 13.

Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil
Ex. xxiii. 2.

The just upright man is laughed to scorn. Job
xii. 4.

For God is the King of all the earth. Ps.
xlvii. 7.

And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall
lie down, and none shall make you afraid. Lev.
xxvi. 6.

Morning.

ALMIGHTY God, thou art the King of
kings, and the Lord of the whole earth!
Thy great kindness has given me my home
in this favored land, where thy Sabbaths
are loved and thy word is preached. Our
lives and our homes are protected by our
Government and rulers. O Lord, I pray for
my country; that our laws may be just,
protecting the good, and punishing wrong-
doers. Bless all our people with happiness
and peace. Forgive our enemies, and may
the law of love rule our hearts. Save us,

dear Father in heaven, from pestilence and famine ; provide for the poor and needy ; and deliver us all from the evil we deserve. Teach all men everywhere to worship thee, and to live in thy fear.

Almighty God, hear my prayer for my native land ; may I ever be loyal and patriotic, and may I appreciate the mercy of God, which has surrounded me with such advantages and protection.

I offer these petitions unto thee, O God. in the dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

Evening.

O LORD, I come to thee at the close of this day, to thank thee for all the loving kindness thou hast shown me.

I thank thee, O God, for the grace of the Holy Spirit, which makes me desire to give thee my heart, and to obey thee. Some of my companions would tempt me to cast off the fear of God, and to yield to sinful pleas-

ures. Oh, my dear heavenly Father! thou knowest how weak I am, and how wicked my heart is! Do not let me be afraid of ridicule; do not let me be ashamed of showing my fear of sin, and my love to the dear Saviour! Lord, forgive me, I pray thee, if to-day I have followed others to do that which I knew was wrong. Oh, give me a tender conscience at all times, and give me courage to try to do right.

Please to protect me and all my friends this night, and accept my prayer for Jesus' sake. Amen.



TWENTY-FIRST DAY.

THERE'S not a leaf within the bower ;
 There's not a bird upon the tree ;
 There's not a dew-drop on the flower ;
 But bears the impress, Lord, of thee.

Thy hand the varied leaf designed,
 And gave the bird its thrilling tone ;
 Thy power the dew-drop's tints combined,
 Till like the diamond's blaze they shone.

Yes, dew-drops, leaves, and buds, and all,
 The smallest, like the greatest, things ;
 The sea's vast space, the earth's wide ball,
 Alike proclaim thee King of kings.

MRS. OPIE.

Honor thy father and thy mother. Ex. xx. 12.

Let them learn first to show piety at home, and to requite their parents : for that is good and acceptable before God. I Tim. v. 4.

Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God ! I Jno. iii. 1.

Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children. Eph. v. 1.

Morning.

A GAIN do I thank thee, O God, for the cheerful light, which makes every creature happy. Thou hast added yet another day to my life. Oh, how merciful, dear heavenly Father, hast thou been to me ever since I was born! I see thy mercy and goodness in the pleasant sunshine, in the air I breathe, and in all the beautiful things of the earth around me. O Lord, every thing in creation obeys thee, and shows thy loving kindness. O God, help me to obey thee, too; help me to-day to do the very best I can; may I be careful to regard my parents' wishes in the smallest things.

Please to hear my prayers for all my friends and companions may we all love and obey the dear Saviour, who died that we might be saved. For his sake, hear my prayer. Amen.

Evening.

DEAR Jesus, thou art the blessed Saviour, who didst come down from the skies to save our lost world ; many happy men, and women, and children, saw thy face and touched thy hand. It made them sad to see thee leave the earth and go back into heaven.

I wish that my eyes could see thy gracious smile, when I come to seek thee. I wish I could feel thy gentle hand upon my head, while I feel in my heart that I have found thee. For I know thou art near to me—that I may always find thee ready to listen to my prayers. Nothing in the world can make me so happy as thy love ; thy mercies to me are more in number than the drops of dew, but I pray thee let thy smile be to me the sweetest of all thy blessings. Help me every day to feel that I am only a little pilgrim travelling to that happy home where I shall see and be with thee for ever. Amen.

TWENTY-SECOND DAY.

YOUNG and happy while thou art,
 Not a furrow on thy brow,
 Not a sorrow in thy heart,
 Seek the Lord, thy Saviour, now.
 In its freshness bring the flower,
 While the dew upon it lies ;
 In the cool and cloudless hour
 Of the morning sacrifice.

Life will have its evil years,
 When its skies are overcast ;
 All the present thronged with fears
 And with vain regrets the past :
 Let him tremble, who his heart
 In an hour like that would bring,
 Lest Jehovah say, " Depart !
 'Tis a worn and worthless thing."

ANON.

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them. Eccl. xii. 1.

Wilt thou not from this time cry unto me, My Father, thou art the guide of my youth? Jer. iii. 4.

I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me. Prov. viii. 17.

Morning.

HOW good hast thou been to me, my heavenly Father! How sweetly and safely have I slept under the shadow of thy wings! I pray thee to accept my thanksgivings for all thy goodness. To-day, O Lord, help me to try more than ever to please thee. As the little birds beat their wings and try to fly, so I would make every effort that I can to do the things I ought to do, and to be a Christian child. Keep me, I pray thee, from growing weary in well-doing. I thank thee that children have a place in thy kingdom, and that we may ask thee for thy grace to help us. May I keep close to the Saviour; let me never wander away from his hand, and grieve him by my disobedience. Help me to make my parents

happy to-day by my constant regard to their wishes. Oh that I could spend one day without sin. Lord, lead me not into temptation, but deliver me from evil, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Evening.

O GOD, how great is thy love and pity toward us! how great was thy mercy in sending thy dear Son to redeem us! I would give thee the best love of my heart; please to help me to trust the Lord Jesus as my Saviour.

Have mercy, dear Jesus, upon the poor and friendless little children, who know so little of thee. Oh send some one to tell them of thy love to us; send some kind friends to do them good; make me willing and glad to deny myself, to give them a share in the blessings which thou hast given me. Dear heavenly Father, forgive all my ingratitude for thy great mercies and bless me still for Jesus' sake. Amen.

TWENTY-THIRD DAY.

AS a bird in meadows fair
Or in lonely forest sings
Till it fills the summer air,
And the greenwood sweetly rings,
So my heart to thee would raise,
O my God, its song of praise
That the gloom of night is o'er
And I see the sun once more.

If thou, Sun of Love, arise,
All my heart with joy is stirred,
And to greet thee upward flies,
Gladsome as yon little bird.
Shine thou in me clear and bright
Till I learn to praise thee right,
Guide me in the narrow way,
Let me ne'er in darkness stray.

Bless to-day whate'er I do,
Bless whate'er I have and love;
From the paths of virtue true
Let me never, never rove;

By thy Spirit strengthen me
In the faith that leads to thee,
Then an heir of life on high
Fearless I may live and die.

ANON.

I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep
for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety.
Ps. iv. 8.

Who redeemeth thy life from destruction ; who
crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender
mercies. Ps. ciii. 4.

My son, give me thine heart. Prov. xxiii. 26.

Love not the world, neither the things that are
in the world. 1 Jno. ii. 15.

Morning.

THE dreary night has gone, and the bright
and pleasant sun shines down again
upon the earth. I rise to praise thee, my
heavenly Father, for the merciful care which
thou hast taken of me while I slept. Thou
dost know what dangers and pleasures are

before me to-day ; I pray thee make me watchful that no fretful feelings or wicked passions may lead me into sin. Keep me in the fear of God and from every sinful action. Do not let me speak an angry or unholy word ; make me gentle and pure ; and all through the day, even in my play, help me to remember that I offered my heart to God this morning, and asked him to make it holy. O Lord, hear my prayer, for the dear Redeemer's sake. Amen.

Evening.

DEAR Saviour, I come to thee to-night, to thank thee for thy gracious love and care. I am not worthy to receive any of thy mercies ; I can only bring to thee a grateful heart and ask thee to fill it with love to thyself.

I have this day heard thy voice calling to me, and I have felt thee knocking gently at the door of my wicked heart. Oh help me

to open the door and to welcome thee as my best and dearest friend. Dear Saviour, please to keep my soul a pure and holy home for thee to dwell in.

O God, wash my soul in the blood of the Lamb, and clothe me with the garments of his righteousness. Help me to learn the new song of praise to Jesus which is sung in heaven ; that when I die I may be ready to take my harp and join the happy spirits who sing around his throne.

Let thy mercy protect me and all my friends this night, and grant that we may wake to love and please thee better. Amen



TWENTY-FOURTH DAY.

FROM thy flock, a straying lamb,
 Tender Shepherd, though I am;
 Now, upon the mountain cold,
 Lost, I long to gain the fold,
 And within thine arms to be:
 Jesus, Saviour, pity me! ANON.

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them,
 and they follow me :

And I give unto them eternal life ; and they
 shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck
 them out of my hand. Jno. x. 27, 28.

I will seek that which was lost, and bring again
 that which was driven away, and will bind up
 that which was broken, and will strengthen that
 which was sick. Ezek. xxxiv. 16.

Morning.

O HOLY and gracious Spirit! come into
 my heart, I pray thee, and keep me

wholly under thy sweet and holy influence. I beseech thee to renew and sanctify my unholy heart; instruct my mind, and control my selfish will.

Oh show me the wickedness of my nature; make me sensible of the eternal danger to which I am exposed, if Jesus Christ be not my friend and Saviour.

Cause me to see the loveliness of the character of the dear Redeemer, that I may love him with all my heart, and rejoice to serve him with all my powers.

Shed abroad the love of God in my heart, and in sweetest mercy give me the joy of knowing and feeling the love of Jesus to my soul.

O blessed Spirit! be in my heart the spirit of all grace, and make my soul an humble dwelling for the Lord.

And unto the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, will I give eternal praise and worship. Amen.

Evening.

O THOU holy Son of God! thou art the kind and tender Shepherd, who didst leave thy glory in heaven to seek and to save the lost.

I am one of the foolish and wicked sheep who have wandered away from the paths of happiness and peace. Wilt thou, dear Saviour, seek after one so young as I? Dear Jesus, wilt thou miss me from thy flock? O Lord, I am afraid to be far away from thee; please to call my soul from every wicked way, and hold me up while I follow after thee. Help me to tell others how sweet it is to be loved by thee, that they may love thee too. Amen.



TWENTY-FIFTH DAY.

THAT little babe in Bethlehem,
Upon its mother's knee,
Created all the mighty worlds
Which o'er my head I see.

And this sweet earth I walk upon,
Was made so bright and fair
By Jesus Christ, the Son of God,
Who lies an infant there.

How could he leave his home on high,
To take that manger-bed?
The angels long to spread their wings
Beneath his sacred head.

O Jesus! make my spirit like
Thine infant heart so meek;
And shut my eyes to earthly good,
While things above I seek. G. W. H.

And they came with haste, and found Mary
and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.
Luke ii. 16.

All things were made by him ; and without him was not any thing made that was made. Jno. i. 3.

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. 2 Cor. viii. 9.

And on his head were many crowns. Rev. xix. 12.

Morning.

THIS morning, dear heavenly Father, I feel in my heart a wish to love thee more, and to please thee more perfectly. To-day let me do something for thee ; let me gain some little victory over my wrong desires. When the sun sets, may I be able to bring to thee a thankful and happy heart. Help me to do the best I can ; help me to do all the good I can, and graciously give me the Holy Spirit to make me what I ought to be. O Lord, let me not mock thee with prayers which I forget as soon as I rise from my knees. Let me not be like the

fig-tree which bore no pleasant fruit for the Saviour, but may my soul be full of the fruits of the Spirit. I ask it all for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Evening.

BLESSED Saviour! before the heavens and the earth were created, and before the sea was made, thou didst sit at the right hand of God and wear a crown of glory. I wonder when I read of thee as a little babe born in a manger. All that the world contains is thine, and yet thou hadst no pleasant home to dwell in, and no place where to lay thy head.

O Lord, make me grateful for all thou hast endured to do us good. Never let me complain or be impatient, though I should suffer much. Have mercy upon me, and bring me at last to heaven, where I shall see thee again upon thy throne, with the many crowns upon thy head. Amen.

TWENTY-SIXTH DAY.

THE bird that soars on highest wing,
 Builds on the ground her lowly nest ;
 And she that doth most sweetly sing,
 Sings in the shade when all things rest :
 —In lark and nightingale we see
 What honor hath humility.

When Mary chose “the better part,”
 She meekly sat at Jesus feet ;
 And Lydia’s gently opened heart
 Was made for God’s own temple meet :
 —Fairest and best adorned is she,
 Whose clothing is humility.

MONTGOMERY.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me ; for
 I am meek and lowly in heart. Matt. xi. 29.

God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto
 the humble. Jam. iv. 6.

For thus saith the high and lofty One that in-
 habiteth eternity, whose name is Holy ; I dwell in
 the high and holy place, with him also that is of

a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. Is. lvii. 15.

Your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.
1 Jno. ii. 12.

Morning.

UNTO thee, O Lord, do I again bring my worship and praise ; unto thee do I come with a new song of thanksgiving ; for thou hast preserved me through another night, and brought me to see the light of another day. Wilt thou not help me this day to live to thy praise ? Among my brothers and sisters may I be the one willing to yield for the happiness of all ; may I be slow to find fault with their conduct, while I keep a careful watch on my own ; may I study to please and assist them and may we live together in love.

O Lord, may I be a good and obedient child to my parents, and may I be respectful and courteous to all persons. May I

never forget to reverence and honor the old ; and do thou give me a heart full of pity and sympathy for all who are infirm or in distress. Let me not think that I am too young to try to comfort and relieve them.

Let me not think that my time is of no importance, but may I use it wisely ; and let not my conversation be idle and foolish. O Lord, help me to day, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Evening.

O LORD, to-night I feel that my prayers can hardly reach thine ear. My eyes can see only my ungrateful and wicked sins ; and thy dear smile seems no more to rest upon me. Oh, my dear Saviour ! thou art not less kind and merciful, but I am wholly to blame for my unhappiness because I have wandered away from thee. Oh ! draw near to me though I am so unworthy. Have pity upon me even in my sins, and pardon me in mercy.

I pray for any poor child in all the world who has forgotten thy voice to-day ; who has fallen into sins through neglect of prayer. Before they sleep to-night do thou gently and kindly speak to their hearts, and again fill them with thy love.

Graciously pray for us, dear Jesus, that we may be kept in the future from grieving the Holy Spirit away from our hearts. Lord, save me from every danger this night ; bless my dear friends, and hear my prayer for thy pardon and love, for Jesus' sake. Amen.



TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY.

I'M not too young for God to see,
 He knows my name and nature too ;
 And all day long he looks at me,
 And sees my actions through and through.

He listens to the words I say,
 He knows the thoughts I have within ;
 And whether I'm at work or play,
 He's sure to see it if I sin.

If some one great and good is near,
 It makes us careful what we do ;
 And how much more we ought to fear
 The Lord who sees us through and through.

Thus when inclined to do amiss,
 However pleasant it may be ;
 I'll always try to think of this,
 I'm not too young for God to see. ANON.

When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid ;
 yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be
 sweet. Prov. iii. 24.

Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun. Eccl. xi. 7.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Ps. cxxxix. 23, 24.

Morning.

O GOD, thou hast waked me from my sleep, and given me again the power to rise from my bed; thou dost permit me once more to see the faces of my friends, and to look at the beautiful sky above me, and the trees and flowers upon the earth. I can hear the voices of those I love, and the singing of the birds. Dear heavenly Father, accept my thanks, this morning, that I am alive to enjoy these sweet pleasures. Help me to enjoy this new day with a thankful heart. May I try to make our home happy; let no hour find me idle, or engaged in any sinful amusement, but make me always a

Christian child, even in my play. May I try to do all the good I can, that I may grow more and more like the lovely angels, who come down to this world on errands of love and kindness. O God, pardon all my sins, I pray thee, and receive my prayer for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Evening.

ALMIGHTY God! the day and the night are both alike to thee; thou seest me always, for thine eye is never closed; thy mercy keeps me in safety, when I wake and when I sleep! Help me to remember that thine eye is ever upon me, to know what I do or think. Let it be a pleasant thought to me, that thou canst look into my heart, and see my desire to please thee. May love to Jesus be always prompting me to do all the good I can; may it make me brave and patient in trying to conquer my selfish wishes.

I will remember how he wore the thorny crown for me, and I will try not to grieve him any more by my sins. I will remember all he endured to merit for us a place in heaven. O God, teach me my dependence upon Jesus for eternal happiness. May I be taught by thy grace to understand what it means when I read that the Son of God came to save the lost. Oh! may this gracious friend of sinners be my Saviour, and may my whole life be spent in his service and to his praise. Dear Father in heaven, watch over me while I sleep this night, and hear my prayer for Jesus' sake. Amen.



TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY.

JESUS! thy gracious word
 Relieved each aching breast;
 With sweetest accents ever heard
 It soothed all griefs to rest.

With power that voice so sweet
 Dispelled each angry thought;
 It drew lost sinners to thy feet,
 And healing wonders wrought.

Oh make me ever kind,
 And pitiful and true;
 Give me thy meek and lowly mind
 To govern all I do. G. W. H.

For we shall all stand before the judgment-seat
 of Christ. Rom. xiv. 10.

Thou makest darkness, and it is night. Ps.
 civ. 20.

What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.
 Ps. lvi. 3.

What is our sin that we have committed against
 the Lord our God? Jer. xvi. 10.

Morning.

HEAVENLY Father! by thy goodness I have been spared to see another day; Oh make me to remember that my life is not all to be spent here upon the earth; let me never forget that there is a future and eternal life which my soul shall spend with the good and happy around thy throne, or with those miserable beings who do not love thee. Teach me to understand that thou art my Judge, and that I shall receive the sweet rewards promised to those who love thee, or be sent away from thy presence if I have never asked the Lord Jesus to forgive my sins.

I pray thee let no sin this day defile my soul and bring sorrow into my heart. Bless and keep me and all my friends; make us happy in thy goodness to us. Please to come, dear Jesus, and be near us night and day, and fit us to live for ever in the home which thou hast prepared for us in heaven. Amen.

Evening.

THE pleasant light of day is gone ; and the darkness covers the earth with gloom ! I am not afraid to be alone, for God is everywhere, and he is my dear Father, able and willing to take care of me.

O God, thou hast watched me through this day ; I remember special acts of sin for which I pray to be forgiven. A temptation which I did not expect caused me to offend God. Oh ! help me to meet temptations, that I may not yield to them. Give me penitence for the sins which I daily commit ; to which I am so constantly inclined. Make me to see all my faults, which have become wicked habits. Let me not think that the sins I so often repeat are of but little consequence in thy sight. But give me true repentance for every sin, and save my soul through Jesus Christ.

O Lord, bless us all this night, and hear my prayer, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

TWENTY-NINTH DAY.

OH that mine eye might closèd be,
To what becomes me not to see;
That deafness might possess mine ear,
To what concerns me not to hear;
That truth my tongue might always tie,
From ever speaking foolishly!
That no vain thought might ever rest,
Or be conceived within my breast;
That by each word, each deed, each thought,
Glory may to my God be brought;
But what are wishes? Lord, mine eye
On thee is fixed; to thee I cry,
Oh, purge out all my dross, my sin,
Make me more white than snow within;
Wash, Lord, and purify my heart,
And make it clean in every part;
And when 'tis clean, Lord, keep it so,
For that is more than I can do.

ELWOOD.

I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes
Ps. ci. 3.

Lying lips are abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are his delight. Prov. xii. 22.

I hate vain thoughts: but thy law do I love. Ps. cxix. 113.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Matt. v. 16.

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Ps. li. 10.

Morning.

DEAR Jesus, my merciful Saviour, I have often promised thee that I would try to be a better child; I have confessed many sins to thee, and asked thy forgiveness; but, after all my promises and sorrow, I have repeated the wickedness which has grieved thee. And now I am ashamed to lift my eyes to thy face while my heart is so full of sin. I cannot make my vile heart clean in thy sight; and if I bring another promise to do only that which is good, I know that I shall not be able to keep it.

Oh! dear Jesus, take my sinful desires away; let me feel thee within my poor heart resisting the devil for me. Be thou my strength, for I am weak and unable to do the things I wish. Conquer for me all my evil habits, and make me watchful and sincere.

O Lord, deliver me from temptation and from confidence in myself, and increase my faith in thee, as my friend and Saviour. Amen.

Evening.

O GOD, before I lie down to sleep, I would kneel at thy feet with gratitude and praise for all thy kindness to me. I praise thee that I have been taught to know something of thee, my glorious Creator and constant benefactor. I thank thee that my friends have taught me to think of the value of my never-dying soul, and told me of the future world.

May I think how swiftly the days pass

away, and how soon the time in which I must make my preparation for eternity will be gone. O God, please to cleanse me from all stains of sin in Jesus' blood, and save my soul for Jesus' sake. Show me the evil of my sin, and make me sincerely to mourn over the wickedness of my heart. May I remember that God commands us to be holy as the angels are holy, and to do his will on the earth as it is done in heaven. O Lord, forgive the many sins I have committed, and forgive me also that I do not love holiness more. Hear my prayer, I pray thee, and make me by thy Spirit what thou wouldst have me to be, for Jesus' sake. Amen.



THIRTIETH DAY.

THE little floweret takes its birth
 From the dark mould of dingy earth,
 But stretching upward quickly blends
 The light and love that heaven sends,
 And throws upon the soft spring air
 In whitened bloom its childhood's prayer,
 While deep within the heart below
 An incense altar's all aglow :
 The prayer soon answered we discern,
 In ripened fruit of early germ. C. C. H.

Unto you therefore which believe he is precious.
 1 Pet. ii. 7.

We love him, because he first loved us. 1 Jno.
 iv. 19.

If a man love me, he will keep my words : and
 my Father will love him, and we will come unto
 him, and make our abode with him. Jno. xiv. 23.

Morning.

O THOU holy son of God, my precious
 Saviour, I desire to come near unto

thee this morning, and to feel thy sweet and holy presence in my heart. I praise thee that I am not too young to call thee my Jesus ; that I may commit myself to thee, and trust in thee as my loving and Almighty Saviour. I love the sound of thy dear name ; it takes away all my fears, when I kneel before God to confess my sins and to ask his blessing. Oh ! let thy smile shine upon me, as the glorious sun shines upon the earth, until my heart shall become like a garden filled with flowers. May all my words and acts this day show the beauty and sweetness of piety, and, when all the days of my earthly life are passed, I pray thee to receive my soul into heaven for thy name's sake. Amen.

Evening.

O GOD, thou art the gracious Giver of every good thing ; thy goodness and mercy to me this day make me ashamed of my many sins and my imperfect obedience.

When I think of all the kindness I have received from thee, my heavenly Father, through my past life, and then remember what is promised to me in the Bible, which tells me of the life to come, I am filled with gratitude and praise. I see many around me deprived of the blessings I enjoy! Oh, how great is thy love to me! What have I done this day to show my love to thee? I cannot pour precious perfume on thy head, dear Jesus, nor wash thy feet with my tears, but I long to show thee my love, and I will try to be gentle and pure and loving like thee. Let thy Spirit whisper in my ear the things thou wouldst have me to do, that I may please thee perfectly.

Please to bless my friends to-night, and hear their prayers for me. O God, bless all the world; may the blessed Saviour be loved and worshipped everywhere! I offer my prayer to thee in his precious name. Amen.

THIRTY-FIRST DAY.

TWO little pilgrims on their way,
I met upon life's road one day :
One wished for earthly pleasures given ;
The other asked the way to heaven.
Oh happy was the child who trod
The path that upward leads to God !
Thrice happy ! for the Saviour's voice
Allured him on, and blest his choice.

But ah ! that poor mistaken one,
Who chose the fatal race to run !
I saw him tread on ruin's verge,
And heard below the roaring surge.
How low he fell I could not see :
Haste thou, the path of danger flee ;
These pilgrims and their choice survey,
Behold their end, and choose thy way !

ANON.

When thou saidst, Seek ye my face ; my heart
said unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek. Ps
xxvii. 8.

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. 2 Pet. iii. 18.

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God, our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen
Jude 24, 25.

Morning.

ALMIGHTY God, Father of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, again I kneel at thy feet, and ask thee to take me into thine arms of mercy. Lead me this day through every little trial I must meet. Make me quick to feel the danger of yielding to sinful desires. O Lord, give me a pure conscience; by thy Holy Spirit teach me to know that which is right and holy in thy sight. Make me afraid to disobey thy voice, in my own heart; and give me grace to pray for thy help, when I am in danger of being led into sin.

Dear Father in heaven, I beseech thee to keep my soul through time and eternity. May I be safe in thy arms ; and let not the dreadful enemy of souls pluck me from thy hands.

O Lord, forgive my many sins, and as thou dost show to me such wonderful love and mercy, so may I with gentleness and kindness forgive those who grieve or injure me.

Again I give myself to thee, dear Father in heaven, and ask thee to receive my prayers for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Evening.

DEAR heavenly Father, how sweet and precious are the gracious words by which thou dost tell us thy love ! With what tenderness hast thou made thyself known to sinful creatures ! Thou art a God infinitely just and holy, yet thou hast told us in thy word that thou art also merciful,

slow to anger, and of great kindness! Who can measure the greatness of thy love to us in sending the precious Saviour to die that we might be forgiven! How can I praise him enough who left his glorious throne to save my sinful soul! Oh, let me not grieve his love by the hardness of my heart; may I never resist the blessed Spirit, nor do wickedly in thy sight, to provoke thee to anger.

I thank thee, O God, for my being, and for all the blessings which surround me. Thou dost know all that is before me in my earthly journey. I cannot tell what shall be on the morrow; but I would daily commit myself to thee, because thou art my Father, and knowest what is best for me. Be near to me when I die, I pray thee, and let me see thy smile. When I can no longer hear the voices of my earthly friends, may my ears be opened to the songs of angels, and to thy voice of mercy welcoming me to my heavenly home. Almighty God, I offer all my prayers in Jesus' name. Amen.

THE END.

THINKING ALOUD.

A BOOK OF

Daily Meditations for Children.

BY

GRACE WEBSTER HINSDALE,

Author of

"COMING TO THE KING, A BOOK OF DEVOTIONS
FOR CHILDREN."

*"Jesus, engrave it on my heart,
That Thou the one thing needful art;
I could from all things parted be,
But never, never, Lord, from Thee."*

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DEAR CHILDREN,—*After reading God's Holy Word, did you ever leave the book open before you, and talk aloud to yourself about its precious truth? Did you ever think that the Bible is God's message of love to you? Try to think of what you read, and "hide God's Word in your heart, that you may love Him and that you may not sin against Him." Ask the Holy Spirit "to take of the things of Christ and to show them unto you."*

G. W. H.

THIS Book is designed to be a companion to "Coming to the King." I anticipate the feeling which many parents may have that children cannot be expected to *meditate* on Sacred Truth. Of course they will not, unless they are taught to do so. But will not a child's mind grow and work in the way in which it is led? Do we all give children the credit which they deserve, for thoughtfulness and spiritual perception?

The power of reflection, though weak in the beginning, will increase by use, and to learn to appropriate God's blessed Word to ourselves, is an infinite gain. Though these meditations fall so far short of what they ought to be, in view of my object, still I hope that many children will find pleasure and profit in reading them more than once.

I have gathered thoughts and suggestions, which it seemed to me might be useful; and I have tried to write out the natural ideas of a thoughtful child after reading its daily portion of the Divine Word. May it please the Good Shepherd, by this humble book, to show his lambs the heavenly pastures where he feeds his flock!

G. W. H.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.,

Oct. 1865.

THINKING ALOUD.

FIRST DAY.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John, iii. 16.

He will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy. Zeph., iii. 17.

And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. Luke, xv. 20.

I LIKE to sit and imagine how the father of the poor prodigal looked when he saw his son afar off. I think I can see him reaching out his kind arms as he ran to meet him. He had not a thought of turning the poor young man away, though he knew

all about his foolish and wicked conduct. He could hardly bear to hear him confess his wrong doing, or wait to give him an opportunity to ask forgiveness. No; he was the poor prodigal's kind and patient father, and he felt in haste to bring him into the house, and to put on him garments such as his son should wear, and to put a ring upon his finger, and to rejoice over him with singing!

It is a beautiful story. I read it over and over again, and it seems to tell me of God's great and wonderful love to us sinners who have wandered away from him. It makes me think of the many times my parents and friends have forgiven my disobedience and unkindness and ingratitude. I remember how tenderly they have treated me, and how they have taken me in their arms and drawn me close to them when they felt sure of my sorrow for my faults.

I'm sure that the Saviour means to invite us to return to God from all our wicked ways. How can I be afraid or unwilling to

tell my heavenly Father all about my sins ? He does not bid us come to him that he may censure and condemn us. Jesus, the Redeemer, says that he did not come into the world to condemn us, but to save us. O, let me never be afraid to go and tell Jesus all the sins of my wicked life ! I will not think of God as an angry judge—though I know that he will call me to give an account of my conduct at the solemn judgment day. I will remember how he sent his dear Son to die for sinners. I will remember this story of the penitent prodigal, in which God represents himself as a loving father rejoicing to take back into his arms his unhappy and penitent son.

God, the holy Father, sent his beloved Son into the world because he longed to have us return unto him, that he might save and bless us.

Not a word of stern upbraiding,
Grieved his sad and suffering soul,
When the boy his sin confessing
To his father's bosom stole !

Both were glad, yet both were weeping,
While they stood with arms entwined ;
And that young heart's anxious beating,
Proved the grief that filled his mind,

Songs of joy were echoed sweetly,
Through the halls of that dear home ;
And the father's love told quickly,
That the wanderer had come.

Overcome with grief and weeping,
Lying on his father's breast,
The poor boy his sins confessing,
Sunk at last to peace and rest.

G. W. H.



SECOND DAY.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace ; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation. Isaiah, lii. 7.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not ; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. Luke, ii. 10.

The gospel of the grace of God. Acts, xx. 24.

The gospel of Christ. Rom., i. 16.

The gospel of your salvation. Eph., i. 13.

Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,

And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand : repent ye, and believe the gospel. Mark, i. 14-15.

THE word Gospel means good news or glad tidings. It is in the precious Gospel that we read of the grace and mercy of God to our sinful souls.

The books which were written by Mat-

thew, Mark, Luke and John, contain the history of Jesus, so that we are told the story of his life by four different men who knew and loved him. They wrote out God's message of love to sinners as they heard it from Jesus' lips; and they explained to us how the holy life of the dear Saviour obtained precious rewards and blessings for us, and how his death upon the cross procured the pardon of our sins. I think they did well to call their books "the Gospel," for certainly no such good news had ever been sent to the world before. It was, indeed, glad tidings to all who heard or read of the Saviour's love! It was the gospel of our salvation, brought to us from God by Christ the Redeemer! He came saying, "Repent ye, and believe the Gospel." He told us that if we were sorry for our sins we might believe the good news of God's willingness to forgive us; and to all the poor and wretched around him he preached the precious Gospel. He told us that he came to take our place, and to suffer the

punishment which the holy law required for our sins ; and that his own holy life and perfect obedience should merit for us a place in heaven. Oh, what a Saviour Jesus is ! He has obtained eternal happiness for all who love him ; he has promised to prepare us by his Holy Spirit to live with him in heaven. He tells us that God will mercifully receive us when we die if we have truly repented of our sins, and tried to live a holy life.

Oh God, please to make my heart pure from sin in the blood of Jesus, and help me to rejoice in the glad tidings which tell us of all the good things which thou art so willing to give us for the sake of what thy dear Son has done and suffered for us !
Amen.



THIRD DAY.

This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased. Mat., iii. 17.

The Lord is well pleased for his righteousness' sake. Is., xlii. 21.

Be ye holy. Lev., xx. 7.

Walk before me, and be thou perfect. Gen., xvii. 1.

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags. Is., lxiv. 6.

He hath made us accepted in the Beloved. Eph., i. 6.

IT makes me very happy when I see that my conduct pleases my parents, and that they are satisfied with my work when they have given me a particular thing to do. I feel as if nothing could induce me to neglect their wishes, when to gain their approval is so sweet. But oh, it grieves me to think that God is so dissatisfied with me! I should like to please him perfectly, so that

he would not be disappointed in me! I should like to do always just those things he commands and wishes me to do ; just those things which he expects me to do ! I wish that there were never in my heart any feelings but just those a little Christian should have ! In one of David's Psalms it says : " The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men " to see if there were any that were good, and there was " not one." And yet it does not comfort me that I am like every body else in the world ; I think it makes me wish all the more that I could please God, and win his smile, to make me happy. At any rate I will try to obey his commands ; I will try to watch my heart and keep it pure.

How thankful I am to know that I am not going *alone* before God to stand clothed in my own righteousness. Indeed, I need not present myself to God at all for his *approval*—I must not do that. Jesus " appears in the presence of God for us," and God says of him : " This is my beloved Son,

in whom I am *well pleased*." The Saviour came into the world to take my place, and to bear my punishment—to suffer and die for me. And he *lived* for me too, he obeyed the law for me, so that I might have his righteousness as a beautiful robe to cover my sin-stained soul. God is well pleased *even with me* for his righteousness' sake. If I am penitent for my sins God will not look at them ; he will not mention them to me any more ; but he will look upon Jesus, in whom he is always well pleased, and who offers himself to God in my place.

This comforts me more than I can tell ; but still I want to be holy *myself* ! What infinite mercy it is in God to accept me through Jesus in this way ! Certainly he expects that I will try to please him in my own life ! Oh, my dear heavenly Father, give me thy holy Spirit to help me ; do not let me be willing to offend thee, who art so good and merciful to me ! My disobedience to my parents would disappoint and grieve their hearts. Oh, God, thou hast done in-

finitely more for me than my earthly parents can ever do ; let me not be a disobedient and rebellious child to thee ! Amen.

Jesus ! thy robe of righteousness
My beauty is,—my glorious dress :
Mid flaming worlds, in this arrayed,
With joy shall I lift up my head.

When from the dust of death, I rise
To claim my mansion in the skies,
Ev'n then shall this be all my plea,—
“ Jesus hath lived and died for me.”

C. WESLEY.



FOURTH DAY.

Search the Scriptures. John, v. 9.

And that from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith, which is in Christ Jesus.

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God. 2 Tim., iii. 15, 16.

Thy word have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against thee. Ps., cxix. 11.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Ps., cxix. 105.

WHAT a wonderful book the Bible is! My simple and ignorant thoughts are all confused when I try to think of the ages since its first chapters were written. How many little children have learned to repeat the beautiful parables and and the sweet Psalms of David! How many poor, lonely prisoners, and sick and suffering people have comforted themselves with the precious promises

in the Bible! How sweet the words of Jesus have been to all those who have loved him!

This Holy Book is able to make us wise unto salvation, for it shows us the path of life, and leads us to the precious Saviour, who is able and willing to save us. No captain, though he were ever so wise, would go to sea without his compass; and I know that I shall never guide myself aright if I neglect to inquire which way God's wisdom and will direct me. I will study my Bible more than any other book. Why should I take such pains to study the books containing earthly knowledge, and give so much less attention to this gracious and holy Book?

I should like to know what will become of our Bibles when this world is all passed away. Shall we never have them again? It seems to me that it would be a great pleasure lost—or left behind. But God knows best what we shall need or enjoy in another world. One thing I will do; I will be

sure, if possible, to know all that is written in the precious Bible before I die. I know that I can understand but a small portion of it ; but, certainly, I will try to read and remember as much as I can of God's Holy Word. Blessed Spirit, help me to believe and to love my precious Bible !

“The Bible is my chart,
By it the seas I know ;
I cannot with it part—
It rocks and sands doth show.
It is my chart and compass too,
Whose needle points forever true.”

ANON.



FIFTH DAY.

Thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.
Prov., xxvii. 1.

And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the back side ; sealed with seven seals.

And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

And I wept much, because there was no man found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not : behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

And I beheld, and lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain,

having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. Rev., v. 1-7.

I OFTEN wish that I knew how and where my life will be spent, and what God will permit to happen to me. I think, with tears in my eyes, of the time when I shall be left alone without my dear parents—for certainly I should feel alone if they were gone, though I had ever so many other friends. When I see poor invalids confined with pain and weakness to their beds for years, I think to myself—perhaps my heavenly Father will find that I need such suffering to make me obedient and humble, as he wishes me to be. But, there is no use of my thinking of all these things. No one can read the book of the future, and know or even guess what will come to pass. It is a sealed book, and we need not be surprised at any thing which happens. God knows everything which is before us in this world, and all the

events of our life will be just as he intended they should be. He orders all things for us by his son Jesus Christ, to whom he gave the book with the seven seals. No one could open the book but our dear Saviour, who is the Lamb of God slain for us. The winds and the sea obeyed him when he was upon the earth, and all power in heaven and earth is given unto him. He loves me, and died to save me, so that I may know that he will make all things work together for my good if I really love God. I will take every day's blessings and trials just as they come from Jesus' hands. He will order everything from hour to hour as I need. If I am in any trouble, I ought to look into my heart, and think over my actions, and see if there is not some wicked way in me, to which Jesus wants to call my attention. When I am happy in the enjoyment of God's goodness, I ought to remember *why* he shows such mercy to me. Dear Jesus, I owe all my blessings to thee. Grant that I may be always under thy gracious care! Amen.

SIXTH DAY.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulders: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Is., ix. 6.

And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. Mat., ii. 13.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John, i. 1.

And let all the angels of God worship him. Heb., i. 6.

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. 1 Tim., i. 15.

I READ in the Bible that the holy Son of God became a child like me, and lived upon the earth. He came down from heaven,

where he had always been with God from eternity. He was God, and the blessed angels and the holy spirits loved and worshipped him, and rejoiced to do his will. Why did he leave those holy beings and that happy place? Why did he come to this sinful world, and lie in the arms of Mary—a helpless babe? It is a wonderful thing to think of! Our earth seems so very far off from heaven, and we are all so unholy and miserable that it is very wonderful to me that the Saviour should come himself to live among us. If he had sent a beautiful angel to do us good, and to teach us how to please him, I should have thought that even such kindness was wonderful love. But he preferred to come *himself*, and be a little child, dependent upon Joseph and Mary for care and support. I suppose that he worked with his own hands with Joseph in his humble home. It does not surprise me that the angels desire to look into these things. The Bible says they do; and they sing louder and sweeter songs of praise to Jesus than

we can, because they saw him in his glory before he left the skies to take upon him our nature. In one way they cannot love him, for he is not their Saviour. I will praise him because he lived and died for me.

Hark ! hark ! the notes of joy
Roll o'er the heavenly plains,
And seraphs find employ
For their sublimest strains ;
Some new delight in heaven is known ;
Loud sound the harps around the throne.

Hark ! hark ! the sound draws nigh,
The joyful hosts descend ;
Jesus forsakes the sky,
To earth his footsteps bend ;
He comes to bless our fallen race ;
He comes with messages of grace.

Bear—bear the tidings round ;
Let every mortal know
What love in God is found,
What pity he can show ;
Ye winds that blow ! ye waves that roll !
Bear the glad news from pole to pole.

ANON.

SEVENTH DAY.

The waters of Shiloah, that go softly. Is., viii. 6.

And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.

And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?

Jesus answered, Neither has this man sinned, nor his parents; but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day; the night cometh, when no man can work.

As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay:

And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam (which is by interpretation, Sent). He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing. John ix., 1-8.

THE little brook Shiloah flowed softly and gently near the great and beautiful city of Jerusalem ; its cool, clear water filled the pool of Siloam on the side of Mount Sion where the splendid temple stood. This was the pool in which the Saviour commanded the blind man to wash, that he might receive his sight. He bathed in waters which were led through channels cut in the solid rock underneath the holy city. God used this little bright and sparkling brook to give comfort and pleasure to all who went to the pool for refreshment. But the poor blind man must have been the happiest person who ever stepped out of that clear and healing water ! He knew that it was the Lord who had opened his eyes, by a gracious miracle, and that the water itself could not have cured his blindness. Yet he must have loved often to visit that pool afterwards, and to remember the delight with which he first looked upon the beautiful world around him. Perhaps he used to go out of the city and follow the little brook,

as it wound around the hills. What loving thoughts of Jesus must have filled his heart!

May I not try to imitate even a brook, which makes itself a blessing to every one? A little child cannot do all that a grown person can, any more than the pretty brooks can be like great rivers, carrying noble ships, and watering whole continents. But still, the dear little brooks would be missed, by old and young, for they flow softly along, raising the heads of wild flowers, and providing refreshment and pleasure for weary travelers and happy children. It is the love and sincerity we show, which makes our efforts to do good acceptable to others. If I wait till I can do some *great* thing, I'm afraid that I shall never do anything at all. O God, please to give me a willing heart, and show me at all times and in every place, the ways in which I can do good, and the little acts of love and kindness, which thou wilt help me to perform. Amen.

“ O what can little hands do
To please the King of heaven ?
The little hands some work may try
To help the poor in misery ;—
Such grace to mine be given.

“ Oh what can little lips do
To please the King of heaven ?
The little lips can praise and pray,
And gentle words of kindness say ;—
Such grace to mine be given.

“ O what can little eyes do
To please the King of heaven ?
The little eyes can upward look,
Can learn to read God's Holy Book ;—
Such grace to mine be given.

“ O what can little hearts do
To please the King of heaven ?
Young hearts if God His Spirit send,
Can love and trust their Saviour, Friend ;—
Such grace to mine be given.

“ Though small is all that we can do
To please the King of heaven,
When hearts, and hands, and lips unite,
'To serve the Saviour with delight,
'They are most precious in His sight ;
Such grace to mine be given.” ANON.

EIGHTH DAY.

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us. Titus, iii. 5.

For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. James, ii. 10.

God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his son. 1 John, v. 11.

Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many. Mat., xx. 28.

I AM not told in God's Word, to do good works, that I may become righteous in his sight! It would be very foolish and sinful for me to think that I could obtain the favor of the Great and Holy God, by even my best efforts to live a holy life. It would be foolish in me to think so, because it would show how little I know what that holiness is which God's law requires of us ;

and it would be wicked, because God has said that all our righteousness is as filthy rags, and that he will not permit us to come into his presence, unless we are covered with the robe of righteousness which Jesus wrought.

But, is the work all finished, and have I nothing to do but to enjoy God's blessings to me in this world, and to enter heaven when I die? I have found this verse, "God *hath* given to us eternal life,"—he gave it to us long ago, when Jesus lived and died to obtain it for us! He does not say that he *will* give it to us, if we bring to him a sufficient number of good works. Certainly he knew that we should never obtain eternal happiness through any merit of our own; and all that I can do is to accept the gift of life through Jesus Christ his Son.

I need not be searching for a treasure to pay my ransom with, for Jesus paid it long ago, with the price of his own precious blood. I need not try to pay it over again, with any works that I can do! Still I know

that God commands us to be holy ; and that he is pleased with our efforts to serve him. It is not wrong for me to tell him how I have tried to obey his commandments, and to fight against my sins. He will graciously accept my obedience, while I trust alone in the merits of Jesus for his favor. My feeble attempts to please him, will be like fragrant flowers in his sight, though I may never be able to bring him any perfect fruit, to show my success in doing good works.

O God, help me to understand how to bring unto thee the righteousness of Christ by faith—for “ without faith, it is impossible” to please thee. Amen.



NINTH DAY.

Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him ? saith the Lord. Jer., xxiii. 24.

And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day : and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God, amongst the trees of the garden. Gen., iii. 8.

Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. Ps. cxxxix. 11.

The Lord is at hand. Phil., iv. 5.

The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy. Ps. cxlvii. 11.

For God hath power to help. 2 Chron., xxv. 8.

And therefore will the Lord wait, that he may be gracious unto you.

He will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry ; when he shall hear it he will answer thee. Is., xxx. 18, 19.

WHY should any one wish to flee from God's presence? It would be like wishing to get away from our best friend! Adam and Eve hid themselves among the trees of the garden, and dreaded to meet the Lord again, because they felt so ashamed and afraid after their disobedience. If it were not for our own sinful desires, I think we should rejoice to know that our heavenly Father is always near us.

Certainly it is God's love that leads him to attend us so constantly and mercifully. He does not act towards us as if he thought that our safety and happiness were of no consequence! When I think of his presence with me at all times, I will remember also his precious promises to those who depend upon him for all they wish or need. Does not God say that he waits to be gracious to us? In his infinite compassion he comes near to us, and bends his ear to listen to our prayers. He is always ready to stretch out his hand to help us when we are in danger, just as the Lord reached forth his arm to

save Peter from sinking in the water. I am glad to know that I can never go out of his sight ; that he is forever by my side to know my condition. I do not believe that he stands by us always to watch for our faults and our sins, that he may write them down in his book, or punish us as we deserve ! It is much pleasanter to think that he follows us to guide and help us, and that he has precious gifts in his hands for us, if we will only ask him to bestow upon us these good things.

Oh yes ; it is sweet to think of God's power and love, while we remember that he is always near us ! He can do for us all that we need ; and if I look to him to keep me in the right way he will hear my prayer. It will please him to have me depend upon his love.



TENTH DAY.

A lively hope. 1 Pet., i. 3.

The hope of eternal life. Titus, iii. 7.

How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? Rom., x. 14.

Having no hope, and without God in the world. Eph., ii. 12.

I HAVE found in the Bible this expression—"a lively hope;" and one of my friends has told me that it means *a hope of life*. It seems to me to contain a great deal that is precious to think of, in a few words. I know that it does not mean a hope of life in this world, though I am sure that if I was in any danger, and expected to die, and a hope of life were given to me, I should be very grateful and happy. It means *the hope of everlasting life*, which God has given us—the hope that we have through Jesus

that our souls shall live with God in heaven, after our lives in this world are over.

If it were not for the Bible and the precious Saviour, we should know nothing of the future. We should be like the poor heathen, who have no knowledge of God and heaven. How sad it is to think of the thousands of wretched and ignorant people who live in lands where the Gospel is never preached! Of course they cannot worship or love a being about whom they know nothing. They have no Bible to tell them of the life of the soul; and they have only a little light in their own hearts, by which to see the difference between what is right and wrong! Oh, I should like to tell them how the Saviour was crucified for us! I should like to tell them about the beautiful place we call heaven, where we hope to see Jesus, and live forever with those who love him! When I am older, perhaps God will want me to go into some heathen country, and be a missionary to those who have no "hope of life!"

Am I not like the blind man, whose eyes were opened to see Jesus ; and shall I not do all I can to have others see and love him too ? I need not wait till I am grown, to be a missionary, for we are all missionaries so long as we are in this world. We are all sent into the world *to do something*, and a missionary only means “one who is sent.” God has sent me into the world, and I must be *his* missionary—to do his work.

God is the Creator and Father of all the many millions of people upon the earth. We are all made in his image, and our souls are just alike in his sight. Why has he put such a difference between me and the poor heathen ? When I remember all his mercies to me, and all my advantages, I am ashamed to think how little I love him. I will offer to God the prayer that Paul did—“Lord, what wilt thou have *me* to do ?”

ELEVENTH DAY.

For the Son of Man is come to seek and save that which was lost. Luke, xix. 10.

And he spake this parable unto them saying, What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it ?

And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbors, saying unto them, Rejoice with me ; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

I say unto you, That likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons which need no repentance.

Either what woman, having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it ?

And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbors together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost.

Likewise, I say unto you, There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth. Luke, xv. 3-11.

I have gone astray like a lost sheep. Ps. cxix. 176.

I DO not remember that I was ever lost so that I could not find my way back to my home. And I can scarcely imagine how distressed and frightened I should be if I were far away from my father's house without any one to help me to return. It must be a dreadful thing to be *lost*. And yet the Bible speaks of Jesus the Redeemer as of one who came "to seek and to save *the lost*." Did he not come to save us all? Who are "the lost?" Does it not mean that we have wandered out of the way which leads to our heavenly home? It must be that Jesus means to tell us that God is our Father, and that we are like poor, lonely, disobedient

children, who have chosen to give up his love, and to try to find our happiness in sinful pleasures and among wicked companions. This is being lost from the way of holiness ; it is being far away from the dear Saviour's arms ; it is being *lost* amidst the sins and dangers to which Satan is ever trying to lead us. He does not wish to see us holy and happy, and therefore he tempts us to forget God, and to wander away from the safe and pleasant paths in which Jesus would have us walk.

Surely I am one of the "lost" whom Jesus came to seek and save. But I think he is near me now, asking me let him guide me and to let him teach me. I do not wish to live away from him—separated from him by my sins. I will tell him that I am lost, and that I trust in him to lead me back to my heavenly Father's love, because he came to seek and save the lost.

TWELFTH DAY.

And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

And, while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel.

Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. Acts, 1. 9, 10, 11.

I AM surprised that the two men in white apparel should have asked the disciples why they stood gazing up into heaven! Had not the dear Saviour just gone up into the clouds? I do not wonder that they stood looking up so steadfastly! It must have broken their hearts with grief to have Jesus leave them so suddenly! And then they understood so little about heaven and

about what Jesus could do for them there ! They knew very well that here in this wicked world the enemies of the Lord would try to persecute and kill them. How discouraging and alarming it must have been to them to be left alone without the protection of their glorious and precious Master. Perhaps Jesus thought that this feeling of loneliness and fear would lead them to pray unto him, and to tell him all their troubles. He wanted, I suppose, to teach them to live by faith upon his love and strength. When they saw him right by their side it was easy to depend upon him, because he did such wonderful things to show them his power and willingness to protect and to bless those who trusted in him. And often he had let them know that he could read their thoughts and see just what they needed without being near to them, so that they could see him. I am sure that they ought to have known that he could be their friend and helper up in the skies the same as when he was with them

upon the earth ! But they were so astonished by his rising into the air and disappearing from their sight, that they could not think of these things. No doubt, many things which Jesus had said were brought to their remembrance after the Holy Spirit came down, which Jesus had promised to send into their hearts. But the two men comforted them by telling them that the same dear Saviour they loved should come again in the clouds from heaven to take them to be with him for ever. Shall I see this glorious sight ? Oh ! that I may live in the presence of Jesus now by faith, so that I may not be terrified when I see him coming again with all the holy angels through the skies.



THIRTEENTH DAY.

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

Saying, where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

When Herod the King had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

And thou, Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said,

Go and search diligently for the young child ; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

When they had heard the king, they departed ; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshipped him : and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts ; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.
Matt. ii. 1-11.

THE wise men from the east were very curious to see the holy babe which was born King of the Jews. They followed the star which God put in the heavens to guide them to the place where Jesus was ; and when they came to the stable in which the holy child was born they presented unto him gifts, gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. I cannot help wondering what Mary did

with all these rich and beautiful things which the wise men gave to the little babe. But, I know that God had shown to these great men that this little child was his Son, and that he was the Messiah whom they had so long expected. They knew that they ought to bow down and worship him. It was the custom in their country to carry precious gifts to their earthly King, and so they tried to please the Lord by offering to him these valuable presents as a proof of their adoration and joy. They rejoiced because they were allowed to see and welcome the promised Saviour.

Would it not be pleasant to take some little gift to the Lord, and ask him to let it remind him of our love? Yes, I think it would. But he does not need anything that we can bring him! There is only one thing which he asks us to give to him. He does say, "Give me thy heart." Oh! how can I offer him such an unholy and sinful thing? Yet, I will ask him to take my heart at once, for I know that he wants me

to give it to him that he may wash it and make it holy. Dear Jesus, I have nothing else to bring thee but my poor, sinful heart : please to accept it.

Jesus, who on Calvary's mountain
Poured thy precious blood for me,
Wash me in its flowing fountain,
That my soul may spotless be.

I have sinned, but oh, restore me ;
For unless thou smile on me,
Dark is all the world before me,
Darker yet eternity !

In thy word I hear thee saying,
Come and I will give you rest ;
And the gracious call obeying,
See, I hasten to thy breast.

Grant, oh, grant, thy Spirit's teaching
That I may not go astray,
Till the gate of heaven reaching,
Earth and sin are passed away.

ANON.

FOURTEENTH DAY.

For one star differeth from another star in glory. 1 Cor., xv. 41.

Be ye followers of me, even as I am of Christ.
1 Cor., xi. 1.

Fear not, neither be discouraged. Deut., i. 21.

For I have given you an example. John, xiii. 15.

Ye are our epistles written in our hearts, known and read of all men. 2 Cor., iii. 2.

I MIGHT spend whole days trying to find two leaves exactly alike, and I should not succeed! I might listen for hours in a forest to hear the same song from two different birds, and I should not hear it! It would be impossible even for me to find two birds with the same plumage! Each landscape is different from every other, and no two human faces are just alike. God has given us a great deal of pleasure in just the variety in things around us! It is a comfort to me to think that God intended

to have all this difference in the same kind of things. Sometimes when I read the memoirs of good children I think that God would be better satisfied with me if I were like them, and then it comforts me to think about the birds and the leaves and the different flowers. The roses and the lilies are very different, yet God made them both, and they please him, I think, all the more because they are not alike. When I read the lives and history of those who have loved Jesus, I will try to imitate them so far as they pleased the Lord ; but I will not be discouraged because I cannot be exactly like them, nor do exactly the same things.

I will ask the Holy Spirit to help me to study the life and example of Jesus, who became a child, and grew up to be a man that we might have a perfect pattern by which we should live. We have in the Bible a description of him, in order that we may try to imitate him in all that we can. The books and letters in the Bible teaching

us the character of our dear Saviour are very precious. They were written by men who died long ago, and I must remember that it is my duty to be a *living letter*, which may be known and read by all men, just as they would read the character of Jesus in one of those old and precious letters written so long ago. I must try to show in my own life what Jesus wishes us to be. Oh, God, help me to grow more and more like Jesus, and give me grace to follow his example. Amen.

Behold, where, in a mortal form
Appears each grace divine;
The virtues, all in Jesus met,
With mildest radiance shine.

Be Christ our pattern and our guide;
His image may we bear;
O, may we tread his holy steps,
His joy and glory share!

ENFIELD.

FIFTEENTH DAY.

The answer of a good conscience toward God.

1 Pet., iii. 21.

A pure conscience. 1 Tim., iii. 3-9.

An evil conscience. Heb., x. 22.

Having their conscience seared with a hot iron.

1 Tim., iv. 2.

Convicted by their own conscience. John, viii. 9.

Yea, and why even of yourselves judge ye not what is right? Luke, xii. 57.

And thou shalt do that which is right and good in the sight of the Lord. Deut., vi. 18.

To seek of him a right way for us. Ezra, viii. 21.

A still small voice. 1 Kings, xix. 12.

Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world. John, i. 29.

Cast thy burden upon the Lord. Ps., lv. 22.

GOD has given to each of us a conscience, to help us to decide whether our thoughts and wishes are right or wrong. There is

something within us which seems to talk with us and try to influence us to do right. It is surely God's voice in our hearts, and it must be very dangerous and wicked for me to disregard it. We have the holy rules by which we are to govern our conduct, written very plainly in the Bible ; and, besides this written law, when we wish to do anything, our consciences judge whether it will please God or not. What if the judge within us should not decide correctly about our actions, or should not speak to us at all ; when we are very much tempted to sin, is there not danger that we shall not hear God's still small voice in our hearts ? How dreadful it would be if we were left to our own choice and will ; we could never get away from temptations, and there would be nothing within us to help us to resist the sinful desires which would soon destroy our souls.

And every time I commit a sin, they say it makes the voice of God feebler and fainter within me ; Oh ! God let me never try to

silence my conscience! Let me not wickedly persist in my wrong doings! Put into my heart a fear of thine anger and of thy judgments, and keep my conscience awake to warn me instantly of the approach of the tempter. Make me afraid of even the smallest sins—for I know that thou hatest all sin.

Will my conscience remind me of those duties I have neglected to do; will it help me to repent of my sins of omission? Yes, I am told that God will educate and enlighten this conscience which speaks for him in my heart, so that it will reprove me for neglecting to perform my duty. The Holy Spirit is the keeper and instructor of my inward judge; he can make my conscience sensitive, and tender, and faithful, and honest. I will pray for such a conscience.

But oh! who can take the burden of my sins away? Who can bear to think of all the wrong acts of his life? My conscience will keep me unhappy all the time, if I let it show me all my faults! The sinfulness of

my heart is very painful to me! Dear Jesus! I bring all my burden to thee; please to open the windows of my dark and sinful soul and let me look out to the sunshine of thy love. Amen.

There is a little lonely fold,
Whose flock one Shepherd keeps,
Through summer's heat and winter's cold,
With eye that never sleeps.

By evil beast, or burning sky,
Or damp of midnight air,
Not one in all that flock shall die
Beneath that shepherd's care.

For if, unheeding or beguiled,
In danger's path they roam,
His pity follows through the wild,
And guards them safely home.

Oh, gentle Shepherd, still behold
Thy helpless charge in me;
And take a wanderer to thy fold,
That trembling turns to thee!

SIXTEENTH DAY.

Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun. Ec., xi. 7.

As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom. Dan., i. 17.

But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

The way of the wicked is as darkness, they know not at what they stumble. Prov., iv. 18, 19.

I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness. John, xii. 46.

Let your light so shine among men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Mat., v. 16.

I DO not like to sit in a dark room, or to walk where I have no light. It is very unpleasant, and I am afraid of stumbling in the darkness. If I'm sleeping I do not need or wish the light, but when I am awake I

enjoy the sunshine ; and I think that God made my eyes so that the light should be sweet and pleasant to me. I could not enjoy the beautiful things which God has made, if it were always dark around me : and I could never see the faces of my friends ! Oh ! God, I thank thee for the bright and cheerful light !

But, there is another kind of light besides that which shines from the sun and the moon and the stars. There is light for our minds as well as for our eyes—knowledge is called light. How very little of this kind of light there is in my mind ! Still I will not be discouraged, for I know that the sun gradually drives away the darkness in the morning till it is perfectly light. The more I study and observe things around me, the more light of knowledge I shall have ; and my mind will grow stronger as I grow older. I will pray for God's blessing on my mind, that I may learn that which is useful and know the difference between good and evil. And there is still another kind of light,

for Jesus says, "I am the light of the world ; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." This is the light I need the most ! If I believe in Jesus and love him, then the light of God's grace has begun to shine in my heart and it will increase more and more, till I am made holy and happy in the light of my heavenly Father's love and smile. This glorious light which Jesus gives does indeed "shine in a dark place," and the beginning of a holy life, the Bible calls the rising of a "day-star" in our hearts.

Dear Jesus, come, I pray thee, and bring thy light into my soul, that I may love thee more, and please thee better. Amen.



SEVENTEENTH DAY.

I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. John, xvii. 4.

Boast not thyself of to-morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth. Prov., xxvii. 1.

Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple. Rev., vii. 15.

I will help thee. Is., xli. 10.

I HAVE made up my mind that God will not be pleased if I do nothing but *play*. There certainly is some kind of *work* which he expects me to do, and I must try and find out what it is, and begin to do it; for no one else can do *my* work, and if I neglect to do it, it will surely be left undone. Shall all the rest of the world be busy and I be idle? No; I should be ashamed to leave this earth and go up to my heavenly Father without finishing the work which he gave me to do.

What *can* a child like me do? Certainly most of my work must be done at home, by my dear mother's side, and among my brothers and sisters! I shall have to be constantly watching to see what my duty is, for it is only little things which I can do, and if I am careless I shall not notice them, and then my work will not be done.

I must not put off till to-morrow what I ought to do to-day, for to-morrow I shall have no time to spare. There will be something for me to do to-morrow which I did not see or think of to-day, and I cannot take the time for my neglected work.

But I cannot work all the time! It tires me whenever I try to see how much I can do! Besides, I like to play; and mother tells me that God likes to have me enjoy myself with my friends, and that playing will help me to work all the better. How sweet it is to think that Jesus watches us at our play! I will try not to play any thing that would displease or offend him. It seems to me that play ought not to be called

idleness ; because if it does me good, then it is a part of my work. There will never come a day which I may spend in idleness, and think that I have nothing to do. In heaven God will give to each of us holy work to do, and we shall have better powers with which to serve him.

This I will remember—that my heavenly Father has not only given me my particular work, but he also offers to help me do it.

Do thy best always—do it now—
For in the present time,
As in the furrows of a plow,
Fall seeds of good or crime.

The sun and rain will ripen fast
Each seed that thou hast sown,
And every act and word at last
By its own fruit be known.

And soon the harvest of thy toil,
Rejoicing, thou shalt reap ;
Or o'er thy wild neglected soil,
Go forth in shame to weep.

JONES VERY.

EIGHTEENTH DAY.

Whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe. Prov., xxix. 25.

I will not fail thee nor forsake thee. Josh., i. 15.

I will surely do thee good. Gen., xxxii. 12.

I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. John, xvii. 15.

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God. Rom., viii. 29.

The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him. Ezra, viii. 22.

SAFE! Yes; I am perfectly safe in my heavenly Father's care! He will not forget me; he will not forget that I am weak and helpless to take care of myself; he will not forget to supply my wants, and to protect me from danger! In thee, dear heavenly Father, do I put my trust; for I know that thou art willing a little child

should trust in thee, and thou art able to do for me more than I can ask or think.

If God is my friend, I need not fear any thing which shall happen. I will not be afraid of the evil which Jesus says is in the world ; nor of Satan, who tries to destroy my soul by tempting me to sin. I will be afraid of nothing, for God's power can deliver me from everything which can harm or injure me. We are safe because we belong to our faithful Saviour Jesus Christ ; and no enemy can pluck us from his hands. No one can take from us the blessings that God gives us, or hinder him from doing us good. God is a great King, and he will not suffer any one to take away the peace of those who serve him.

But if I am outside of the heavenly fold, like a lost sheep lying out in the open field, I shall be exposed to every danger. God's protecting arm will not be around me here in this world, nor in the long eternity through which my soul must live. This is a dreadful thought—that God will not be my

friend nor my protector. If I hate sin and love holiness, and trust in Jesus to save my soul, then all things in God's great universe shall bring me happiness. But if I reject the Saviour's love, and go on in my sinful ways, then no sweet assurances of God's love shall bless me, but everything will be dark and sad, and bring me the punishment I deserve.

Oh, God! do not let me forget thy power to punish, as well as thy gracious power to do us good. Keep me, I beseech thee, under thy protecting wings forever! Amen.

Since, with pure and firm affection,
Thou on God hast set thy love,
With the wings of his protection
He will shield thee from above;
Thou shalt call on him in trouble,
He will hearken, he will save;
Here, for grief, reward thee double,
Crown with life beyond the grave.

MONTGOMERY.

NINETEENTH DAY.

Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth. Job. v. 17.

For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth ; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth. Prov., iii. 12.

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten ; be zealous therefore, and repent. Rev., iii. 19.

WHEN the beautiful flowers are all faded, and the leaves have fallen from the trees, and the earth is covered with snow, it seems as if God were angry with us and had taken away a great many pleasures and comforts from us ! We shiver in the cold, and everything looks dreary. But then, though we cannot see God's gentle hand working so silently beneath the snow and ice, we know that he is preparing for us the beauty of the Spring, and the blessings of the fruitful months. It *seems* as if God had put a cold and frozen band around our dear pleasant earth,

when *really* it is his kind and loving arm working wonders for us, about which we can know but very little.

Well, sometimes my heart seems just like a garden from which all the birds have flown, and in which all the flowers have faded. I feel as if all that made me happy had been taken away. And because God, my Heavenly Father, sees it best to send me disappointments, or to let me suffer pain, I say to myself, God is making it all winter in my heart, and taking away the pleasant things I enjoyed. Oh! how little I know of God's compassion! How ready I am to complain! Are we not told in the Bible that the way to heaven is narrow and straight—a way in which but few love to walk? Why do I not oftener think of the *end* of this heavenly way?

When I am sick or in any trouble I ought not to think that God does not love me; even though I can see that he is punishing me for my sins. Will he not be more like a father to those who wish to be his chil-

dren, than to those who do not love him? And certainly if he loves us he will reprove our faults. He is very tender in his care of us! He notices all our troubles and trials, and he stands beside us in the midst of all the things which so constantly disturb us. I'm sure he would rejoice to smooth the rough places in our journey to heaven if it were always for our good. But sometimes we need these unpleasant things to remind us that this beautiful earth is not our home, and that we must hasten on our heavenly way, without loving our pleasures here so much as to make us forget the life which is eternal. Thus God shows us, that his tenderest compassion and love is for our souls, and if we are patient under his corrections, we shall be better prepared for the enjoyments of our heavenly home.

Thy way, not mine, O Lord!
However dark it be ;
Lead me by thine own hand,
Choose out the path for me.

Smooth let it be or rough,
It will be still the best ;
Winding or straight, it matters not,
It leads me to thy rest.

I dare not choose my lot,
I would not, if I might ;
Choose thou for me, my God,
So shall I walk aright.

Choose thou for me my friends,
My sickness or my health ;
Choose thou my cares for me,
My poverty or wealth.

Take thou my cup, and it
With joy or sorrow fill,
As best to thee may seem ;
Choose thou my good and ill.

ANON.



TWENTIETH DAY.

For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. James, iv. 14.

My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle. Job, vii. 6.

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave whither thou goest. Ec., ix. 10.

For the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. 2 Cor., iv. 18.

ANOTHER day has gone! I am one day nearer to the close of my earthly life! Who knows what shall happen before the sun rises again? No one can tell what a day may bring forth. One thing is certain—our whole life, though it may seem long to us, is but a little day in God's sight! And the night of death comes nearer and nearer as each day's sun goes down.

God will inquire at the end of this earthly day, what I have done. He does not expect us to be idle or to live for ourselves alone. There is something for me to do in each day as it passes, and in every place where I am. The most important work I have to do is to prepare myself for death and heaven. My mind seems always filled with the thoughts and pleasures of this world ; I suppose it is because I am constantly in the midst of its scenes. How can I think as I ought of those things which are *unseen* ? It is just as if I were sitting at a window with a tree between me and the landscape beyond—I should see nothing but the tree, because it was so near me. Oh ! God, open the eyes of my mind to see the things of the next world just as they are ; and though the things of this world are near and close around, let me not forget the better life beyond this earthly one !

These bodies for which we do so much, will soon be carried by our friends to the quiet grave ! How many plans I make for

to-morrow and how little I think of what I shall do in eternity! It is foolish and dangerous for me to live so forgetful of my eternal life. My dear parents are always telling me to learn *now* the things I shall need to know when I am grown. They say that I must prepare myself for my future life in this world now while I am a child. Does not God call our earthly life our childhood; and must I not prepare in time for eternity? If I expect to enjoy heaven, surely I must try to fit myself to associate with the holy beings who are there.

When each day's scenes and labors close,
And wearied nature seeks repose,
With pardoning mercy richly blest,
Guard me, my Saviour, while I rest!
And as each morning sun shall rise,
O lead me onward to the skies!

And at my life's last setting sun,
My conflicts o'er, my labors done,
Jesus! thy heavenly radiance shed,
To cheer and bless my dying bed—
And from death's gloom my spirit raise,
To see thy face, and sing thy praise.

SIR R. GRANT.

TWENTY-FIRST DAY.

What would ye that I should do for you?

Mark, x. 36.

The Lord is good unto them that wait for him,
to the soul that seeketh him. Lam., iii. 25.

No good thing will He withhold from them that
walk uprightly. Ps., lxxxiv. 11.

The Lord giveth wisdom. Prov., 26.

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temp-
tation. Mat., xxvi. 41.

He forgetteth not the cry of the humble. Ps.,
ix. 12.

If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do
it. John, xiv. 14.

And the Lord hath given me my petition which
I asked of him. 1 Sam., i. 27.

Before they call I will answer; and while they
are yet speaking I will hear. Is., lxv. 24.

HOW many times have I written to my
parents when I was absent from home,
asking them to send me certain things!

How anxiously I waited for answers to my letters. And when they gratified my wishes, how glad and grateful I was! How soon I returned my thanks to my dear, kind parents. Oh, if I could only have the same confidence in my heavenly Father's love and his willingness to hear and bless me! If I could only go directly to him and ask for the things which I need! How delightful it would be to feel that God welcomes my prayer just as my parents delight to have me go to them with my requests!

Certainly God has said, "Ask and ye shall receive." I will reverently carry this promise to him when I kneel to pray, and then I will not pretend to want blessings which I feel no real desire in my heart to have. I will, above all things, be sincere in God's holy presence. I will not mock him with a prayer for his Holy Spirit to keep me from sin, when I do not wish or intend to be holy. I will not offer before his glorious throne praises which do not rise with gratitude from my heart. I will not insult

the infinite God with a prayer which I do not remember even for a day.

When my heavenly Father invites me to ask for what I need, I will go into his presence with humility, and offer unto him my petitions in the name of Jesus, who pleads for us before his Father's throne.

I would be solemn and earnest while I talk with God ; but I will not be afraid to tell him that I love him, for he is willing to listen to the prayers and praises of the youngest and simplest. Does he not say, "Let me hear thy voice?"

Let me thank God that my sins cannot be too many or too great for his mercy to pardon. Therefore, I will confess my sins daily to him, and strive not to repeat the wickedness which offends him. I will also tell the Lord of all my temptations. My prayers shall be like my letters to my earthly parents. I will look for God's gracious answers, and I will rejoice to return my thanks for his goodness and love.

Come, my soul, thy suit prepare,
Jesus loves to answer prayer ;
He himself has bid thee pray,
Therefore will not say thee nay.

Thou art coming to a King,
Large petitions with thee bring ;
For his grace and power are such,
None can ever ask too much.

With my burden I begin :
Lord, remove this load of sin !
Let thy blood, for sinners spilt,
Set my conscience free from guilt.

While I am a pilgrim here,
Let thy love my spirit cheer ;
As my Guide, my Guard, my Friend,
Lead me to my journey's end.

Show me what I have to do,
Every hour my strength renew ;
Let me live a life of faith,
Let me die thy people's death.

NEWTON.

TWENTY-SECOND DAY.

For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased ;
and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.
Luke, xiv. 11.

And those that walk in pride He is able to
abase. Dan., iv. 37.

Talk no more so exceeding proudly ; let not
arrogancy come out of your mouth : for the Lord
is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are
weighed. 1 Sam., ii. 3.

Choose the things that please me. Is., lxxv. 4.

And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold
Joseph into Egypt. Acts, vii. 9.

Let us not be desirous of vainglory, provoking
one another, envying one another. Gal., v. 26.

Let nothing be done through strife or vain-
glory ; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem
other better than themselves. Phil., ii. 3.

EVERY body praises the sun ! Grown
people and children, and birds and ani-
mals are glad and happy in the light and

warmth which the glorious sun pours down upon every thing and every creature on the earth! But who ever thought of the sun's being proud? The flowers bloom in beautiful shapes and colors everywhere, and every body admires and loves them—but who ever called the flowers proud? The dear little birds all day long sing the sweetest songs in our gardens and in the solemn forests—but did any one ever say that the birds were vain and proud? Oh, no; the sun doesn't care whether we raise our eyes or not to look at his golden face. The flowers will spring up in places where their beautiful leaves will never be seen. The happy birds will sing whether any one listens or not! Neither the sun, nor the flowers, nor the birds are proud of what they are or of what they can do!

To be sure, pride is very wicked and very foolish; but I cannot think that it is wrong for me to be glad when I please others, and see that they love me. It must be right for us to try to please others and to gain their

love. Yet I have often been made unhappy by desiring too much the praise of my friends. I have been disappointed when they neglected to approve my looks and conduct. And besides all this foolishness, I am afraid I have sometimes been envious of the praise and admiration bestowed upon others. This certainly is wicked pride, and it must be one of the evil things which proceed out of my heart. Oh God, please to take this unholy spirit away from me!

Do I not sometimes wish so much for the praise of others, and for their good opinion of me, that I pretend to be what I really am not? How hateful this must be in the sight of God, who reads our hearts! Dear heavenly Father, let thy grace in my heart be like the roots of a vine, which go down deep into the earth, so that there may be the real fruits of holiness in my daily life.

Is it not wicked pride which makes us think that we are free from the faults others have? Are we not forbidden to compare ourselves with others at all? It will be

safest for me to study God's commands, and then I shall see what my character is, and I shall be able to know whether my conduct is such as to please him. I ought to pray and strive most of all to please God!

If I remember my many advantages, with all the instruction I have received, it will humble my pride to see how little progress I have made, and how little there is to admire in me. I will try not to be proud, or dependent upon the praise of others. But yet I will offer to God my thanks for the love of my friends, and for the pleasure I have in trying to please them.

'Tis *being*, and *doing*,
And *having*, that make
All the pleasures and pains
Of which beings partake:
To *be* what God pleases—
To *do* a man's best;
And to *have* a good heart—
Is the way to be blest."

ANON.

TWENTY-THIRD DAY.

For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether. Ps., cxxxix. 4.

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men. Gal., vi. 10.

Honor all men. 1 Pet., ii. 17.

And the King shall answer and say unto them Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Matt., xxv. 40.

And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. 1 John, iii. 23.

I WONDER if there were any children in Nazareth or Jerusalem who were rude or uncivil or disrespectful to Jesus ; if there were any who were rough and noisy and ill-behaved in his presence. I cannot bear to think that any boy or girl would insult and grieve him by such impolite and vulgar

conduct! And now, while I am thinking about it, it seems to me that such behaviour towards any person must displease him just as much as if it were offered to himself. Our unkind looks and rough voices must grieve him though he is so far away. Was not the expression upon his face always gentle, and gracious, and kind? He was full of grace and kindness when he dwelt among men. His voice was mild and full of love, and it seems to me that no one could have looked up into his eyes without wanting to kneel down at his feet—to praise and worship him. And does he not say that a kindness shown to any of his friends is a kindness done to himself? Oh, will he not consider all our rude and disrespectful conduct to others as offered to himself?

We cannot love every body alike! Did not the Lord appear to love John best, when he let him lean his head upon his bosom, at the supper in the upper room. Surely he must be willing that we should

have our particular friends. But certainly we ought to feel kindly towards every one, and to be glad to do them good as often as we have opportunity. If we were all really interested in each other's happiness, what a pleasant world it would be! How glad we should be to see each other; and how easily the cheerfulness and kindness of our hearts would be discovered in our words and tones!

When I feel ill-natured and selfish, I will try more than ever to put on a pleasant face, and to speak with a pleasant tone and manner; for mother says if I strive to *act* politely and properly, it will help me to *feel* kindly; but that if I yield at all to impatience, or selfishness, or anger, I shall only increase the difficulty of overcoming the wrong feeling.

Does it not show the wickedness of our hearts, when God has to command us to be respectful and kind? How strange that we should have to be *commanded* to love each other!

TWENTY-FOURTH DAY.

There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth. Luke, xv. 10.

O, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! Rom., xi. 33.

For who maketh thee to differ from another? 1 Cor., iv. 7.

What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me? Ps., ccxvi. 12.

The Lord maketh poor, and maketh rich; he bringeth low, and lifteth up. 1 Sam., ii. 8.

Did not I weep for him that was in trouble? Was not my soul grieved for the poor? Job, xxx. 25.

Blessed is he that considereth the poor; the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. Ps., xli. 1.

AS the angels look down from heaven upon our round green earth, I suppose that it appears a very little world to them!

They could easily count all the members of God's great family who live here! What feelings of surprise and wonder they must have as they look into our different homes! How much darkness and ignorance and wretchedness they would see among the people in some parts of the world! With what joy they would look into Christian homes, and listen to the hymns which the friends of Jesus sing! How could they help wondering why God put such a difference between his earthly children? Would they not long to make us feel the greatness of God's sovereign goodness to us? Would they not like to tell us how he sits a glorious King upon his throne, giving gifts to those whom he selects to receive his bounty, and guiding and ordering all things in love and wisdom?

When they saw a little infant laid in the arms of loving parents, who were able to give it a warm and happy home; when they saw its little soul committed to the care of a father and mother who would delight in

leading it to Jesus—would they not rejoice in the love and mercy of God? And when they saw another dear little babe given to a heathen mother, or left in a poor and wretched home—would they not weep, though they know that God is wise and good in all that he does? I think his ways must be unsearchable and past finding out, even to angels!

Oh! why has it pleased God to do so much for me? How can I praise him enough that he gave me such parents and such a cheerful and happy home! How many poor children are without friends to provide them shelter, or food, or clothing! It must be very hard to be poor! May I never forget those to whom God has denied the blessings he has given to me; let me try to think of them in their cheerless homes till I am ready to deny myself pleasures to do them good!

Surely God's kindness to me ought to make me willing and glad to return to him the most grateful obedience. He asks us to

consider what great things he has done for us, and I think he expects that his goodness to us will make us sorry for and ashamed of our sins. He commands us to think of his mercies and to fear him, and to serve him in truth with all our hearts.

Nightly, when the winds are low ;
In the firelight's fading glow ;
Ere upon my snowy bed
I have laid my weary head,
Angels seem to stoop and say,
"Have you loved the Lord to-day?"

Holy angels ! come and be
Dwellers in my home with me !
Make me gentle, tender, kind,
Help me every hour to find
Sweetest joy in duty done,
Till, with you, my crown is won.

E. D. PROCTOR.

TWENTY-FIFTH DAY.

My son, give me thine heart. Prov., xxiii. 26.

And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin. For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man ; thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow. Luke. xix. 20-21.

For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required. Luke, xii. 48.

And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind ; for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts ; if thou seek him, he will be found of thee ; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off forever. 1 Chron., xxviii. 9.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit ; a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Ps., li. 17.

IT would be very wicked for me to think that I am unable to do what God requires

of me! It would be like that wicked servant telling his Lord that he was an austere man, who expected to reap where he had sown no seed. I never like to read that verse ; it seems so wicked for any one to talk to a kind master in that manner! *Our* Lord is not harsh or severe with any of us! He knows just what we are—for he made us. He knows just what talents we have—for he gave them to us. And because God is our maker he has a perfect right to require us to serve him. Does not God know us each by name? Does he not know our age and the amount of knowledge we have? I will be ashamed of my wicked and unkind thoughts of God—for I know that he only requires me to follow the light I have.

My soul is by nature full of sinful inclinations, yet God my Heavenly Father, commands me to be holy. By nature I do not love God, but he says to me, Give me thy heart ; and oh, let me never complain or feel sorry that God wishes me to devote my life wholly to him.

It is a comfort to read that God will accept our willing hearts, and remember in mercy all our circumstances ; but it is a solemn thought that to whom much is given from them much will be required. If he has given us a *little* knowledge I suppose that he will expect us to *improve* it—because he will say that we might have understood what our duty was, if we had tried to learn his will.

In many places in the Bible God offers to renew our corrupt hearts, and to assist us by the Holy Spirit. He teaches us to pray that the love of God may be shed abroad within us—so that we may rejoice to serve him. It is wrong for me to say that I cannot give my heart to God, when all I have to do is to ask him to break my hard heart and make me love him. May I never be guilty of resisting the Holy Spirit when he strives to make my heart warm with love to Jesus! Let me be ashamed to ask how little I can do for Jesus and yet keep his precious love to me! Surely he knows who

do all they can to please and serve him!
And he sees the tears of those who weep
because they can do so little.

Tender mercies on my way
Falling softly like the dew,
Sent me freshly every day,
I will bless THE LORD for you.

Though I have not all I would,
Though to greater bliss I go,
Every present gift of good
To eternal love I owe.

Source of all that comforts me,
Well of joy for which I long,
Let the song I sing to Thee
Be an everlasting song.

A. L. WARING.

TWENTY-SIXTH DAY.

There be many that say, Who will show us any good. Ps., iv. 6.

At thy right hand there are pleasures forever more. Ps., xvi. 11.

Trust in the Lord and do good. Ps., xxxvii. 3.

Lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God.

• Tim., iii. 4.

But they regard not the word of the Lord, neither consider the operation of his hands. Is., v. 12.

GOD has given me a desire for pleasure. He cannot wish to see my eyes full of tears, any more than my dear mother does! I'm sure that he likes to see me bright and happy, like the little birds which sing among the trees and flowers, and like the little animals that play and frolic in the sunshine!

I wonder if there was no child in the house at Bethany, where Jesus loved to go so often. If there was, I do not believe that

he wanted it to sit perfectly still all the time. He loved children better than any one else ever loved them ; and he knows how hard it is for us to play without disturbing others by our noise ! I wish that I could learn to play in just the right way, so that none would think me a troublesome child !

My dear mother seems very tired of my constant asking what I shall do and how I shall find amusement and pleasure. She says I ought not to be all the time seeking my own gratification—that it is loving myself so much which makes me so restless, and that if I would try to do something for others I should find that my own happiness would increase. She says no one ever obtained happiness by only wishing for it, or even by working hard to make themselves happy. And besides, she says that sometimes the things which give us pain, bring to us *in the end* the best happiness ; and that when God permits us to be sick or sends us disappointments to bear—even these sad and uncomfortable hours will do us good, and

procure for us a pleasure in trying to be patient and contented.

My friends tell me I shall find the most of my happiness in little things ; that if I am not careless and thoughtless I shall find the sweetest and most constant pleasure in God's *little gifts*. Now I will try and see if this is true. When the rain comes down from heaven, I will sit and watch it fall, and see what it does for the dusty leaves and thirsty plants. When the sun sets I will enjoy the glorious colors of the beautiful sky. I will watch the little twigs and branches, that I may welcome the first buds of spring ; and when the frost bites off the golden leaves, I will try to hear the solemn lessons which they teach when the wind makes them rustle on the ground. I know that those who love to watch God's wonderful works in nature, find a great deal of happiness ! But let me find my greatest pleasure in trying to imitate the blessed Saviour, who spent his life in *doing good*.

Who hears the cold and driving wind,
Play round his warm and happy home,
And thinks not with a pitying heart,
Of those who unprotected roam ?

Who rests upon his easy bed
With blankets soft, and pillows white,
Without a loving prayer to God
For those who dread the dreary night ?

Who *knows* the sovereign reason why
His home with every joy is blessed ?
Let grateful hearts with generous love,
Relieve the needy and distressed.

G. W. H.



TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY.

God is a spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. John, iv. 24.

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 2 Cor., iv 6.

O Lord, thou art our Father. Is., lxiv. 8.

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. Deut., vi. 5.

IT is hard for me to think of God only as a spirit! He seems then like a being far away from me, and I cannot feel certain and satisfied that he loves and remembers such a poor and humble creature as I am. And if I think of his glorious character, of his perfect holiness and justice and of his great and terrible power—then I am afraid to speak to him from out my heart so full of sin.

God knew that we could not be satisfied with only the knowledge of himself as a spirit, and so he came near to us in a human form, and showed us his glory in the face of his Son Jesus Christ. As Moses covered his head with a veil, when he came down from the mountain, when God had talked with him, because the sinful people were afraid of his shining face—so God veiled his glory and spoke to us with the gentle voice of our Saviour, and walked among us in a human form. How tenderly the great God remembers our weakness and our fears!

When I hear and know that God is a Father, I feel happy in the thought that he is very near to me! When I remember that it is from his love that I receive every gift, I rejoice that he can see me every moment; I feel like stretching out my hands towards him, just as little babies hold out their arms to go to their mothers. How can we help wishing to go to a friend who shows us such love and kindness? God is the giver of all my blessings; though I am

so young and so unworthy, he seems never to forget that I need his care and protection. How strange and wicked it would be if I did not love him best—if I did not love him even better than I do my earthly parents and friends !

Surely no one ever has been, or can be, so good to me as my heavenly Father ; and there is no one beside God whom I ought to love with all my heart, and soul, and mind, and strength. The glorious God commands me to love him supremely, because he has made my soul capable of loving that which is holy and good ; and certainly when I know that *he* is the *holiest* and the *best*, I ought to love him most of all.

Oh, Holy Spirit, change my unholy heart, that it may love that which is holy ; help me to think of all God's mercies to me, and grant that I may give my whole heart to my Heavenly Father, who alone is worthy of our *best* love. Amen.

TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY.

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory :

And before him shall be gathered all nations ; and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats.

And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

'Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. Matt., xxv. 31-34.

For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Rom., viii. 6.

And Enoch walked with God. Gen., v. 24.

And Noah walked with God. Gen., vi. 9.

IN the beginning when God made the world he divided the light from the darkness ; and in the end of the world all nations shall be gathered before him, and he shall separate them one from another as a shepherd

divideth his sheep from the goats. God will put each of us just where we belong, because he will know perfectly what our characters are! He will know whether we have loved to think of him, whether we have prayed to grow more and more like him, and whether we have tried to fit our spirits for his presence or not. If we have spent all our thoughts and time here upon the earth to please and gratify our bodies, then we shall see that we have lived selfish and earthly lives! But if we have loved the Lord with all our minds, if we have thought about God and remembered him, and asked him to feed our souls with the bread of life—then the Lord, who died to save us, will welcome us to sit with those who were *spiritually* minded here in this world.

Oh! what a mercy it is that God is so willing to give us the Holy Ghost! Our minds are so dark and ignorant unless he teaches us! Did not these spirits of ours come from God, who is a spirit? Certainly we must go to him for the spiritual know-

ledge and food we need. The blessed spirit can put into our hearts spiritual thoughts and spiritual desires, and he can make our inclinations spiritual and holy, instead of earthly and selfish. Surely when I feel the influences of the Holy Ghost in my heart, I will praise God for his mercy, and strive to keep the blessed spirit with me, to purify and sanctify my unholy heart.

When I pray I will ask most of all for blessings for my *soul*. I will ask God to give me more faith that I may believe his promises and his solemn threatenings. I will ask him to open my spiritual eyes that I may not stumble and fall into sin and danger.

My catechism teaches me that God is an infinite and invisible Being; but if we choose we can certainly learn a great deal about the character of God, by studying the things which he has made. Everything around us shows his power and his goodness, and that he is a kind Father to us! And the gift of his dear Son to suffer upon the

cross for us, shows us more than our minds can ever understand of his infinite love. Dear Father in heaven, help me to know what it is to live a spiritual life! Teach me what it is to walk with God as Enoch did. Take my hand in thine and lead me to thyself.

O my Saviour, crucified!
Near thy cross may I abide;
There to gaze, with steadfast eye,
On thy dying agony.

Jesus, bruised and put to shame,
Tells me all the Father's name;
God is love, I surely know,
By my Saviour's depths of woe!

In his sinless soul's distress,
I behold my guiltiness;
O! how vile my low estate,
Since my ransom was so great.

Dwelling on Mount Calvary,
Contrite shall my spirit be;
Rest and holiness shall find,
Fashioned like my Saviour's mind.

ANON.

TWENTY-NINTH DAY.

What ! know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own ?

For ye are bought with a price ; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. 1 Cor., vi. 19-20.

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body. Rom., vi. 12.

Our bodies washed with pure water. Heb., x. 22.

He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment. Rev., iii. 5.

Do thyself no harm. Acts, xvi. 29.

If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy ; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are. 1 Cor., iii. 17

Mine age is departed, and is removed from me as a shepherd's tent. Is., xxxviii. 12.

MY body is only the building in which my soul lives ! It is only a tent which my spirit may use while I am on my earthly journey ! But though it is so inferior to my

soul I must take good care of it, that it may be fit for my use, and add to my happiness. How great is the goodness which God has shown to us in the formation of our bodies !

Has God told us how to treat these bodies which he created with such skill ? I find in the Bible this command, Do thyself no harm—but that was what Paul said to the keeper of his prison, when he drew out his sword to *kill* himself. To be sure I never mean to kill myself ! Does it not teach us that we must not harm our bodies in *any* way ?

I will thank God that I am not deaf or dumb or crippled. I will praise him for all the pleasant things I see ; for all the pleasant sounds I hear. With my lips I will sing songs of gratitude to my heavenly Father !

My body is the temple of the Holy Ghost. Oh ! let me never defile it by impure acts ! I pray God to make me pure and modest in all my thoughts, that I may be holy in body and spirit. O God, give me thy Holy Spirit that sin may not reign in my body !

In one place in the Bible it speaks about our bodies being washed with pure water ; and the saints in heaven are said to be clothed in white linen garments. I think when I read these verses, and those verses in the Old Testament, where it tells of the priests bathing so often in the lavers of brass, that God even notices whether we are clean and neat in our bodies and dress ! Are not whiteness and purity signs of the holiness and cleanness of our hearts ? May God help me to wash my soul in the fountain of Jesus' blood, that I may be cleansed from all sin, and may my body be kept a pure and holy temple for the Lord to dwell in !

Am I strong and well ? How grateful I ought to be for health ; God's sweetest gifts can give us no pleasure if we are ill and in pain ! Let me never do anything to injure my health !

How long shall I live in this weak yet wonderful body ? God only can tell. He will take the tent down when it pleases

him! When I reach the shore of the river of death my soul must leave the body which gave it a home in this world. Who will watch to see me step upon the other side of Jordan? Dear Lord Jesus, send some loving angel to welcome me with smiles, as I pass through the gates of glory. I trust thy grace to save me!

There came a little child with sunny hair,
All fearless to the brink of Death's dark river
And with a sweet confiding in the care
Of Him who is of life the joy and Giver;
And, as upon the waves she left our sight,
We heard her say: "My Saviour makes them
bright."

ANON.



THIRTIETH DAY.

And he taught daily in the temple. Luke, xix. 43.

Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Ex., xx. 8.

But the Lord is in his holy temple ; let all the earth keep silence before him. Hab., ii. 20.

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. Mat., xviii. 20.

Serve the Lord with gladness ; come before his presence with singing. Ps. c. 2.

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise ; be thankful unto him, and bless his name. Ps., c. 4.

Go thy way for 'h by the footsteps of the flock. Cant., i. 8.

HOW happy those children must have been who went with their parents into the temple when Jesus taught the people ! I'm sure they listened very carefully to see if he said anything which they could understand !

Oh ! what happy days those were when children could really see the Son of God, and hear his gracious words ! The Bible says that he is in his holy temple now ; and that when his people meet to worship him he is there to hear their prayers, and to accept their praise. It certainly is very different from seeing him as the people saw him in the old temple of the Jews ! I must have more faith than the young Jewish children had if I am permitted to feel the presence of the Saviour in the house of God ! And those who *believe* are promised better things than those who *see*. Christ said to Thomas, "Because thou hast seen me thou hast believed ; blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." I will not doubt that the Lord is in his holy temple. I will go into his presence with reverence, and offer my worship with a happy confidence that he is there to listen to my praise. Will not the Lord graciously reward my humble faith, if I go into his house *expecting* to meet him there ? Is he not pleased with

our faith in his promises? Will he not draw near to those who try to draw near to him?

I like best to kneel in my own room before God, and to read his word in my own dear Bible; but did not David go into the great congregation to join the people in their public worship? Did he not love to sing with them the glorious Psalms? O God, let not my heart be far from thee, while I honor thee with my lips.

The ministers of the Gospel speak to us in the name of the Lord; I ought to attend to what they say. How can I expect the sweet and holy benediction to rest upon my soul when I leave the house of God, if I have been inattentive and careless while there?

The Redeemer calls himself the Good Shepherd—does he not feed his flock in his sacred house on his own holy day? I cannot miss the privilege of going there with those who love him. Yes; I will try to hear and understand all that I can of the word preached; and the Sabbath shall be to me my best and happiest day!

THIRTY-FIRST DAY.

Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Mark, viii. 34

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. Acts, xvi. 31.

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth. Ec. xii., 1.

I delight to do thy will, O my God; yea, thy law is within my heart. Ps., xl. 8.

O God, thou knowest my foolishness: and my sins are not hid from thee. Ps., lxix. 5.

Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come. 1 Thess., i. 10.

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life. 1 Tim., vi. 12.

Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. Luke, xxiii. 42.

THE followers of the Lord Jesus Christ are called Christians. Christ the Lord of glory is their leader, their friend, and

their Saviour. Am I following him—is he my leader? Do I love him—is he my friend? Do I trust in him for my soul's salvation—is he my Saviour? How happy I am if I can answer yes to these three questions!

Jesus does not tell us exactly how old we must be to be Christians—he does not say that one so young as I *cannot* be a Christian. Who are Christians? Are they those who know Christ and believe him to be our Saviour who forgives us our sins, and saves us from the wrath of God which we have deserved? I know that Jesus is the holy Son of God, and that he is a man also; that he calls himself our brother and yet is our divine Saviour. I will trust in him to save my soul.

Do Christians believe all that Jesus teaches? I will study the Scriptures to know what Jesus says.

Are Christians soldiers of Christ? I will pray for strength to fight against every sin; I will ask the Lord to dwell in my heart and to conquer for me.

Are Christians like Jesus, separate from sinners? I will love those who love the Lord.

Do Christians weep over their sins? I will repent of all that is wicked in my heart and ways; I will delight to do God's will, and his law shall be in my heart and I will try to love it.

Do Christians work for Christ? I will try to do good and to set a holy example.

Do Christians belong to Christ? I will give myself to him and ask him to remember me in his heavenly kingdom.

Are Christians all alike? Oh no; do not the beams of the same sun rear the tall pine upon the mountain top and the pretty violet out of its bed of glossy leaves? Does not the sun bring forth the bud and flower from every seed and ripen the various fruits of the earth? So will God's Spirit be the author of holy thoughts and desires in all our hearts till we each become a temple where the Saviour loves to dwell. And as the sun shines upon the cold earth—so the

blessed Spirit will warm our different hearts
that we may each bring from our own garden
the fruits of faith and love to the praise of
him who died to save us.

Jesus ! thou art the sinner's Friend ,
As such I look to thee ;
Now, in the fullness of thy love,
O Lord ! remember me.

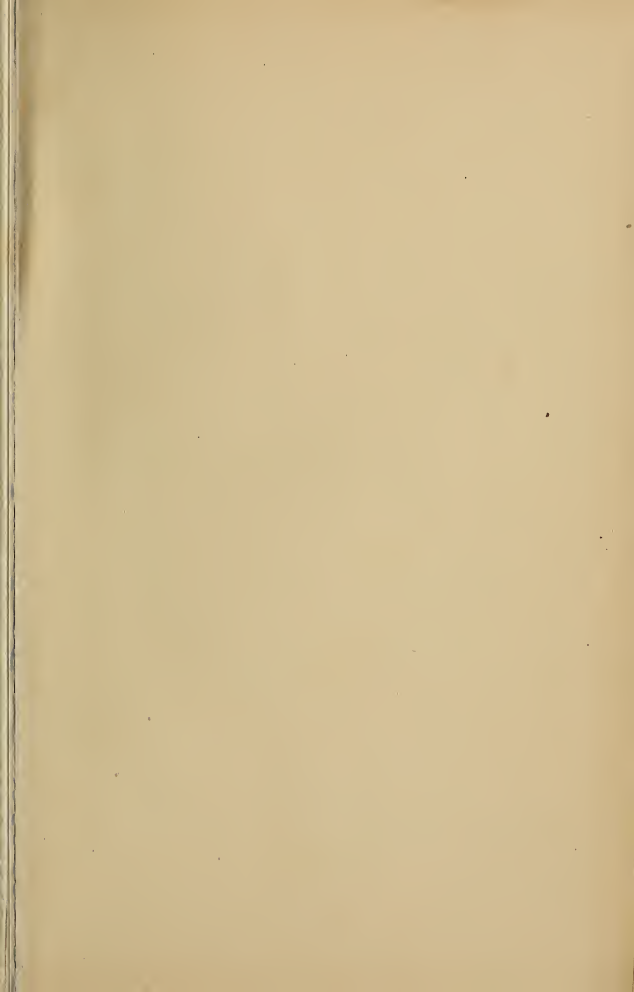
Remember thy pure word of grace—
Remember Calvary ;
Remember all thy dying groans,
And, then, remember me.

Lord ! I am guilty—I am vile,
But thy salvation's free ;
Then in thy all abounding grace,
Dear Lord ! remember me.

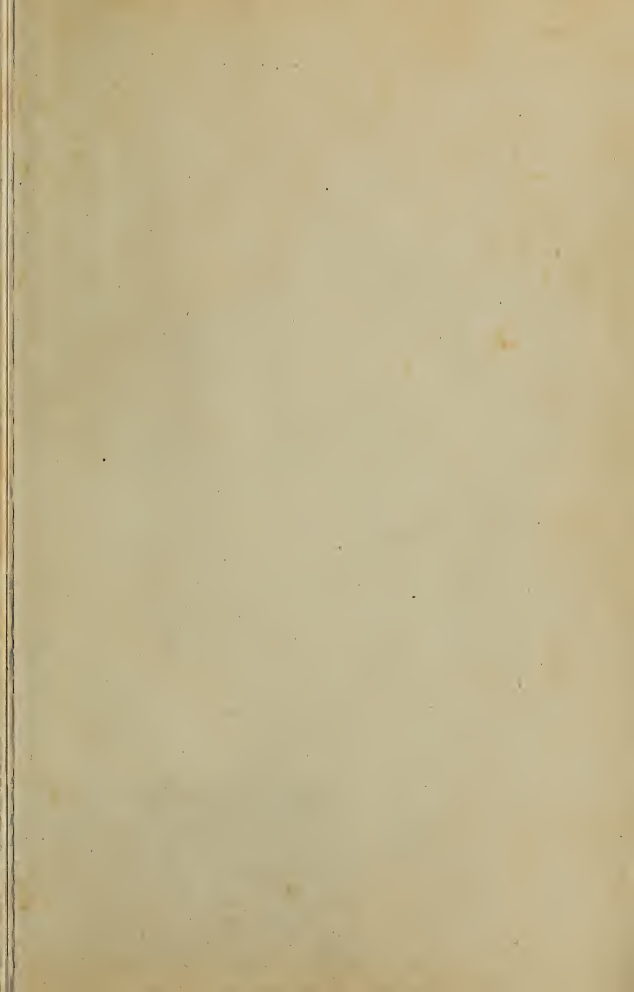
And, when I close my eyes in death,
When creature helps all flee,
Then, O my dear Redeemer God !
I pray, remember me.

PARKINSON SELEC.









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